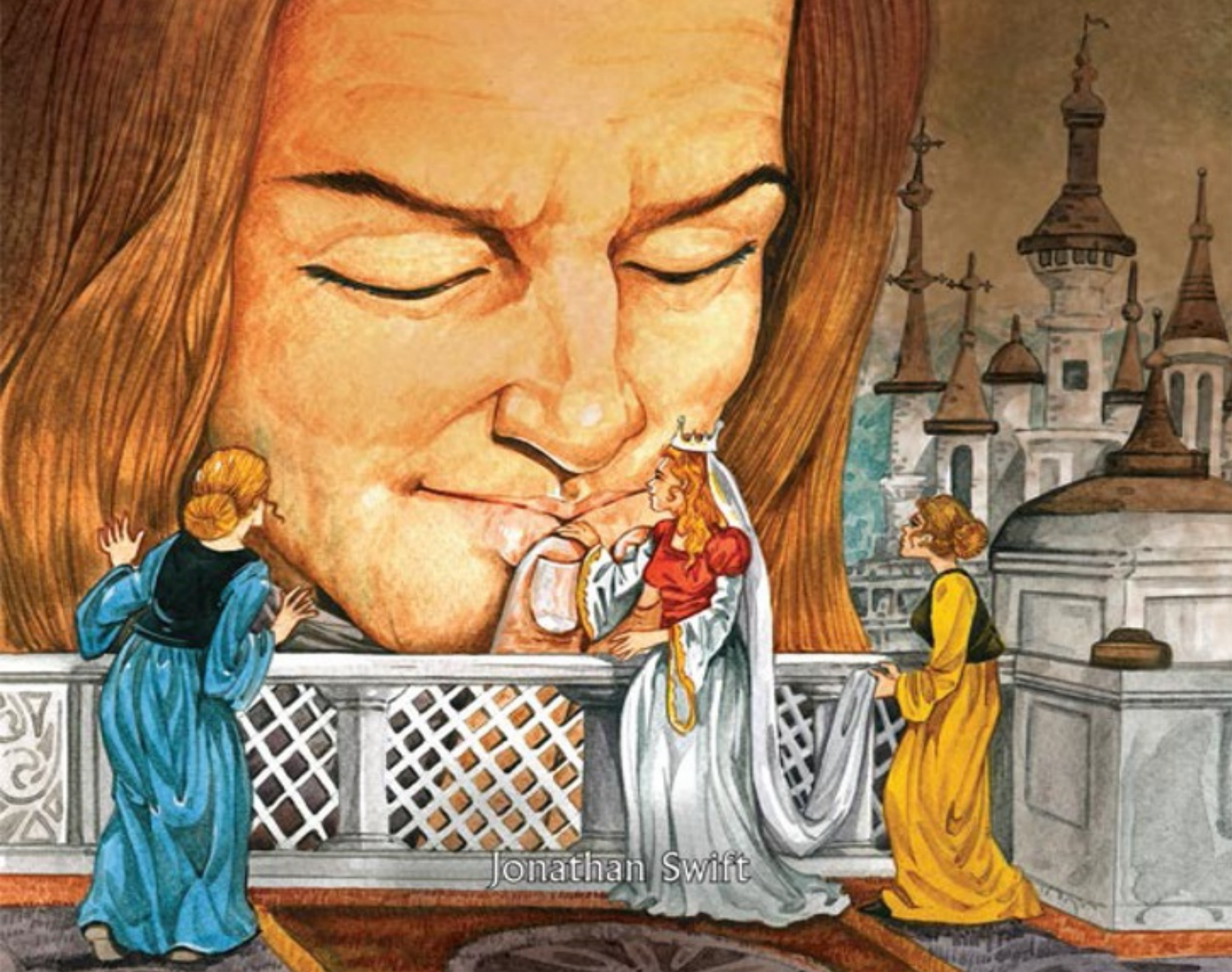


OM ILLUSTRATED CLASSICS

# GULLIVER'S TRAVELS



Jonathan Swift



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## Chapter One

# A Voyage Gone Wrong

Don't consider my writing as an autobiography. I am not that aged to put my life on paper and weave a story. I am just a forty-two year old man, waiting for some more exciting events and adventures to happen in the life that lies ahead of me. I am here to narrate about my life in the past which has been incredibly interesting. I have had some incredible experiences, which can be termed as unusual yet remarkable in lands that are quite far from us, and that is the reason, I am recording and writing about it.

If I tell you my name, which is, Doctor Lemuel Gulliver, you would stop expecting any strange stories from me. In London, working as just a doctor didn't fulfill my wishes. I was always looking for something more than what I was provided. When I was in the process of becoming a doctor, navigation became my fancy. I went ahead and did courses in navigation and studied it deeply about it. Travelling was my first love, and I always wanted to go to far-off places; places that were new and undiscovered, lands beyond the human reach.

I kept this dream of travelling to some exotic places in my heart, and continued with my graduation. I graduated from medical school in my twenty-fourth year. Next step was to look for a job, so I signed up as a doctor on the ship, and for next three-and-a-half years, I sailed around Europe and the Mediterranean Sea. I continued with my work as a ship's doctor. Then, I

came back to England to get married, and looked forward to setting up my own medical practice. After setting up my practice and trying to run it for two years, I finally gave up and shared with my wife my desire to go back to the sea. My wife wanted me to be a successful man, and agreed with my plans.











Again, I was appointed as a ship's doctor, and did my job well for the next six years. During that time, I went to the East and West Indies, and quickly learned languages that sounded so alien to our English ears. This natural gift of memorizing different languages helped me a lot in the travels that I made later on. In the meantime, I kept sending money to my family, which lived in England wishing me good health. The six years at sea also came to an end, and now I didn't want to go back to the sea. So, I thought of trying my luck again on land. But this time, I wanted to help and cure sailors in a coastal village.

Luck favoured me this time, but not completely. Though I was tired of the sea, I still couldn't bear to be away from it. That was the reason for setting up my practice near a coastal region. All this continued for next three years, but now my heart started going towards the sea again, and an offer knocked at my door. It was from the captain of the Antelope, William Prichard, who wanted me to join their team as ship doctor and accompany them to the South Seas. This opportunity came to me just at the right time and I gladly accepted his offer.

On the fourth day of May, 1699, we set sail from Bristol, England. The journey was fine, but when we crossed the South Seas, just off the west coast of Australia, we came upon a violent thunderstorm. This natural calamity proved to be disastrous, as twelve members of our crew were dead braving the storm. We didn't have enough food on board to survive, and the members who did survive were so weak by the end of it all. The worse was still to come. Our ship was pushed by the wind to collide with some sharp rocks, which led the ship to break, and split up. I was one of the six men who could get off the ship in a life boat, and row away from the drowning ship and sharp rocks into the sea.



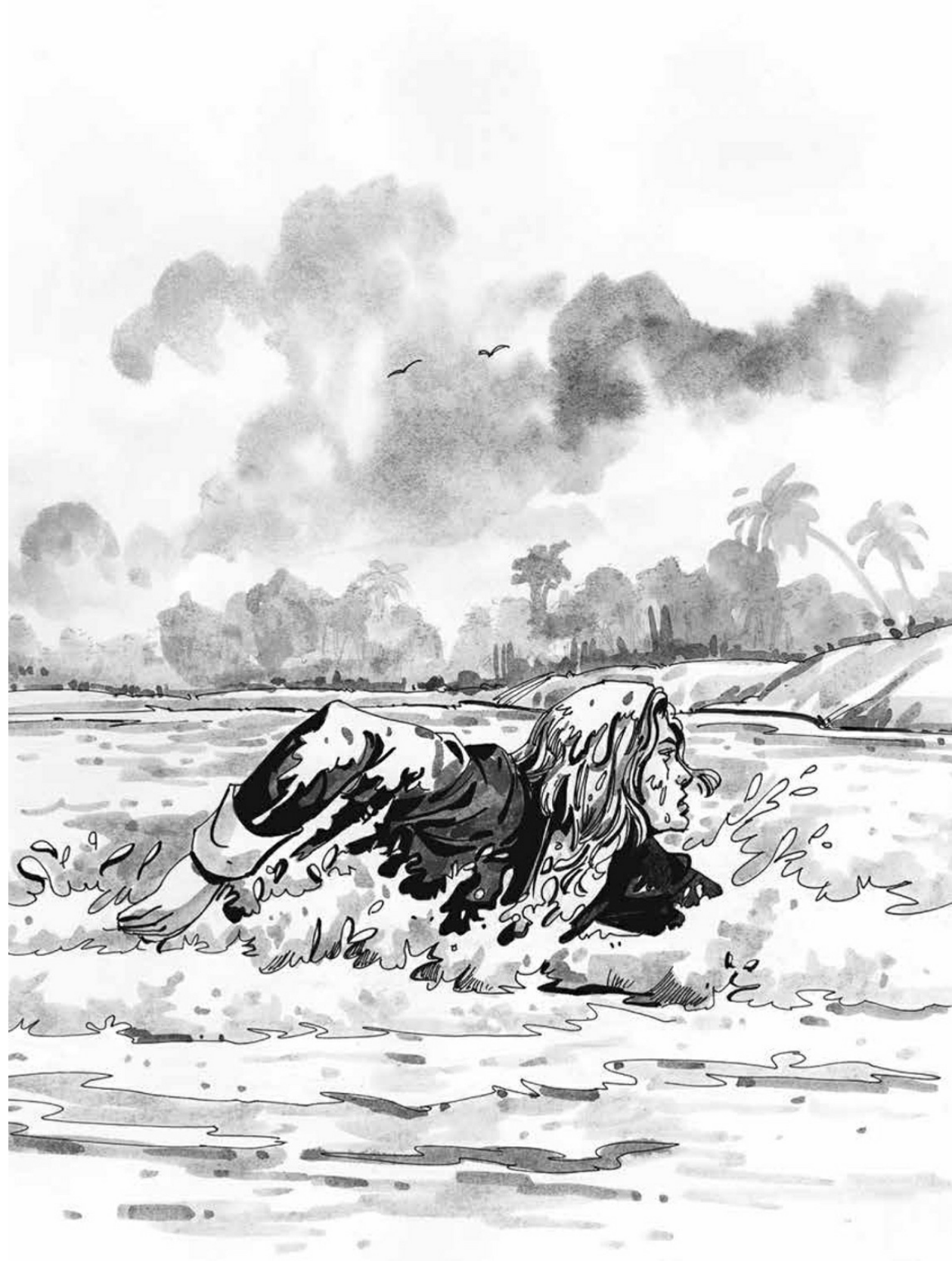


For a long time, we tried to fight with our destiny. We tried hard rowing our boats to save ourselves from getting lost. But, fate had other plans for us. We couldn't contend with nature, with the sea and its waves for a long time, and finally left the oars to float on the water of the vast sea. What we could do was wait for what was to happen to all of us. Thus, we just rested in the boat, lying on our backs, trusting the waves and leaving everything on destiny.

As if that was not enough, there came a very powerful gust of wind from the north and within seconds, we were floating in water with our small boat overturned. That was the last time I saw my companions. After that, I always took them to be dead or lost at sea as I was. I had nowhere to go now, so I started swimming with whatever strength I had in me. The waves pushed me, and the wind tested my endurance, but I stopped resisting and followed whatever I was made to do.







There was no fixed direction in which I swam for hours. My arms hurt, and I was unable to breathe, for I struggled against the waves. After toiling and braving the sea and the storm, I had given up any hope of surviving, and waited for death to come. But, just when I was hopeless, I felt land under my feet. *I was on land!* I gave out a cry of joy. Gasping for breath, I started breathing as if hungry for air. I stood on that spot and looked at the sky above me. There was still some light and I thought it must be about evening. I tried to look a little far away and saw a shore. I just prepared myself mentally that if I had to survive, I would have to make it to the shore. Keeping this in mind, and the weather being in my favour as the storm had decreased by then, I slowly and steadily made my way to the shore that lay a mile away from where I was standing. In approximately two hours, I was ashore.





## Chapter Two

### Lilliput

After I dragged myself out of the water and reached the shore, I was quite tired and powerless to go any further. I looked around and discovered an area with grass, and I sat on it. With my head spinning, I lay down on that patch of grass, and within seconds, I was fast asleep. I can't remember when I slept, and for how much time I lay there. I woke up and opened my eyes to find that the sun had come out, and it was morning. I presumed to have slept for many hours, and thinking this, I wanted to get up. But, to my surprise, I was unable to even move an inch.



I looked at my body to know what was stopping me from getting up. I was amazed to see that I was being tied by thin yet strong cords and threads to nails fixed on the ground all around me. I wondered how someone could tie me like this, covering each and every part of my body, from hands to legs, and even my hair. And therefore, I couldn't move at all. Unable to do anything else, I kept lying there and staring at the sky, blinking my tired eyes, and trying to forget the horror of the voyage that had turned into a disaster.

I waited there and I tried to hear if anyone was around me. Initially I could hear no one, but after some time passed, I heard some murmuring. It was not the usual human sound one heard, but had something different about it. I couldn't turn my neck to see who was making such sounds, as I could not determine the direction from which these strange voices came. But, I was positive that it could not be a human being. As I was concentrating on the voices, I felt something crawling on my right leg. I could feel something moving from my leg to my stomach. I took it to be an insect and started focusing on the sounds, but again the thing moved, now coming towards my chest and face. When the thing stopped below my chin, I rolled my eyes and forced my eyeballs to the lowest they could go and, what did I find there? It was not an insect, but a human being. It was not an ordinary human being, as it was just six inches tall, and it left me wondering.



The small human creature was armed, carrying a bow and arrow. Also, he was not alone, as fifty other tiny creatures followed him with their arrows pointing at me. I was scared to think what if they all shot at my face. I screamed, terrifying all the tiny creatures. They quickly jumped off my body to save themselves. I waited for some time again, and finally one of them gathered the courage to walk on my body up to the chin for a closer look. The tiny human creature was shocked to see my face and shouted to his men, "Hekinah degul!" The men standing around me replied in the same way.

I didn't understand what they were saying to each other, and I was not interested. What mattered to me was to free myself from the threads and cords around my body, strangling me. I made an effort to free my right arm, applying all the strength that was left in me. I pulled the threads and twisted them with my fingers, and finally I freed one of my arms. With that arm, I began removing the cords that held my left arm. But I couldn't free my left arm even with all my might. I cleared the pegs and cords that fixed my hair to the ground, causing so much pain, with the right arm. Then, I forced myself to get up, breaking the cords that covered my neck. I turned my neck and saw many similar creatures running about me. I stretched my hand to catch some of them, but they ran away quickly.

Some of those creatures screamed, "Tolgo phonac!" while they ran away from me. All of a sudden, many arrows began flying towards me. I could see that the tiny creatures had attacked me with their arrows hitting me like needles. I was saved by the clothes that I was wearing, as they prevented the arrows from reaching my skin. But, the creatures were not satisfied and started aiming at my face. Two or three arrows hit me in the face and I shrieked in pain. Keeping my hand on the face to dodge their arrows, I protected my face from further injury and pain. Amidst all this confusion and chaos, I tried focusing on how to get free. I attempted loosening the cords that were left, and the creatures started shooting me with even more arrows. As if this was not enough, they tried to hit me on my sides with spears, but I was lucky to have worn a leather vest that saved me from any severe damage.









I thought, at that moment, that to continue being a threat to these people by moving my hands would be just foolishness. It would be a wise decision to just keep lying on the ground until night comes. At night, I made a plan to secretly free myself from these shackles so that no one would come to know. And even if one new, they would be unable to see in the night as clearly as they could see in daylight. I thought that the darkness of the night could be used as a cover to fool these tiny creatures, and they wouldn't dare to confront someone as gigantic as me.



The plan worked as when I stopped resisting and making any movements, the creatures also stopped the attack. I sighed with relief as the arrows stopped. After a few minutes, I heard a noise close to my ear. I strained my neck to see what was happening. I again heard another bang, and saw that some of the men were building a sort of platform. The men were deft in their work and the structure was ready in a very short time. The platform was ready and then came four people, and finally entered someone who looked the most important amongst them. He came up and stood in the center, with a man on either side, and behind him a servant held his robe. The important-looking man delivered a speech in my direction, but it didn't make any sense to me. His tone resembled tones similar to mine, and I could make out that there were threats and promises in his speech. He ended the speech, pointing around him, saying, "Lilliput! Lilliput! Lilliput!"

From those words, I understood that this place, was called Lilliput. I had studied maps for so many years, but had never come across any country or island by this name. I had no other way but to explain to the man in English, being as humble as I could be, using the softest tone possible that I had not come to harm them or their people. I promised them by pointing towards the sky, referring to the heavens above. I made all possible efforts to communicate with these strange people in a strange land. They understood that I didn't mean any harm and therefore stopped looking at me as if I was an enemy.









While all this was happening, my stomach began to rumble and I remembered that I had not eaten for some days. I signaled to the men with one hand that I was hungry by putting my hand to my mouth. An official who was called Hugro, understood my actions and announced something in his language. In moments, I saw lots of people putting ladders around my face, transporting food walking on my chest, and throwing meat, bread, and other eatables in my mouth. It was after living sometime in Lilliput that I got to know that the Emperor had asked for food to be arranged for me, just after my arrival on the land. After I was fed properly, I was thirsty and signaled for some water. The men carried some barrels on the ladders, rolled them over my chest, and made me drink something that tasted like sweet wine. I drank four barrels, which according to my appetite was four small cups, and then they signaled to me that they had no more of it.

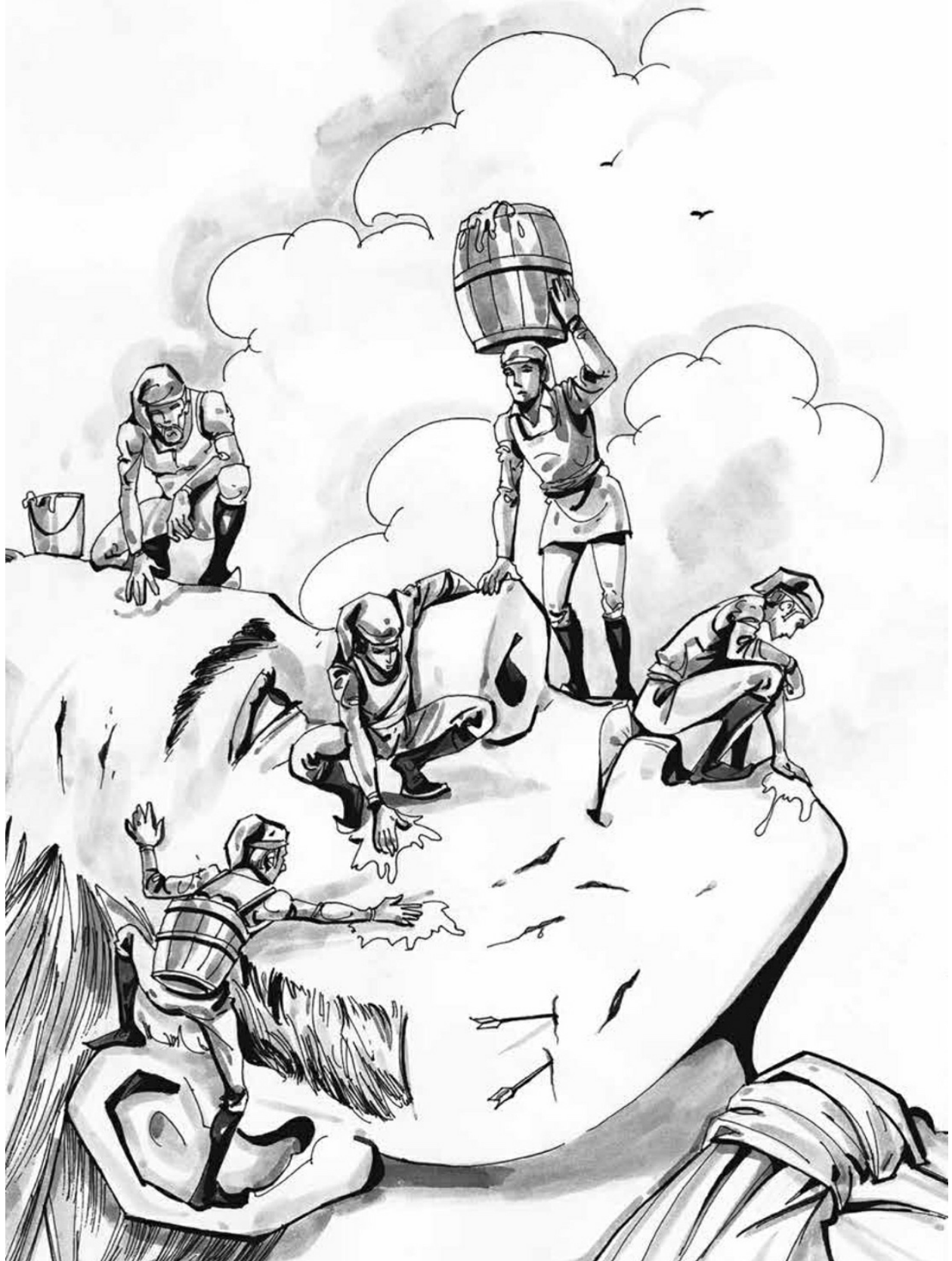
My captors were brave people, who moved about freely on my chest despite one of my hands being free. They were good people, who had taken care of me and treated me generously; feeding me food and giving me water to drink. I was already grateful to them. After I was fed, an important minister climbed the ladder and came up to me, standing on my chest. He indicated that the Emperor had ordered me to be transported to a place in the distance called Mildendo. I came to know later that it was the capital city of Lilliput.

I made a sign to the minister that I didn't want to go like this, and wanted to be free. The minister disapproved of my wish, shaking his head, and indicating that I would be taken there as a prisoner, but he assured me that I would be treated well and fed properly. After some time, I discovered that I had marks and bruises on my face because of the sharp arrows shot at me. By this time, I had realized that I won't be able to escape from my captors, as they were many in numbers. The only option left in front of me was to do as they wanted.



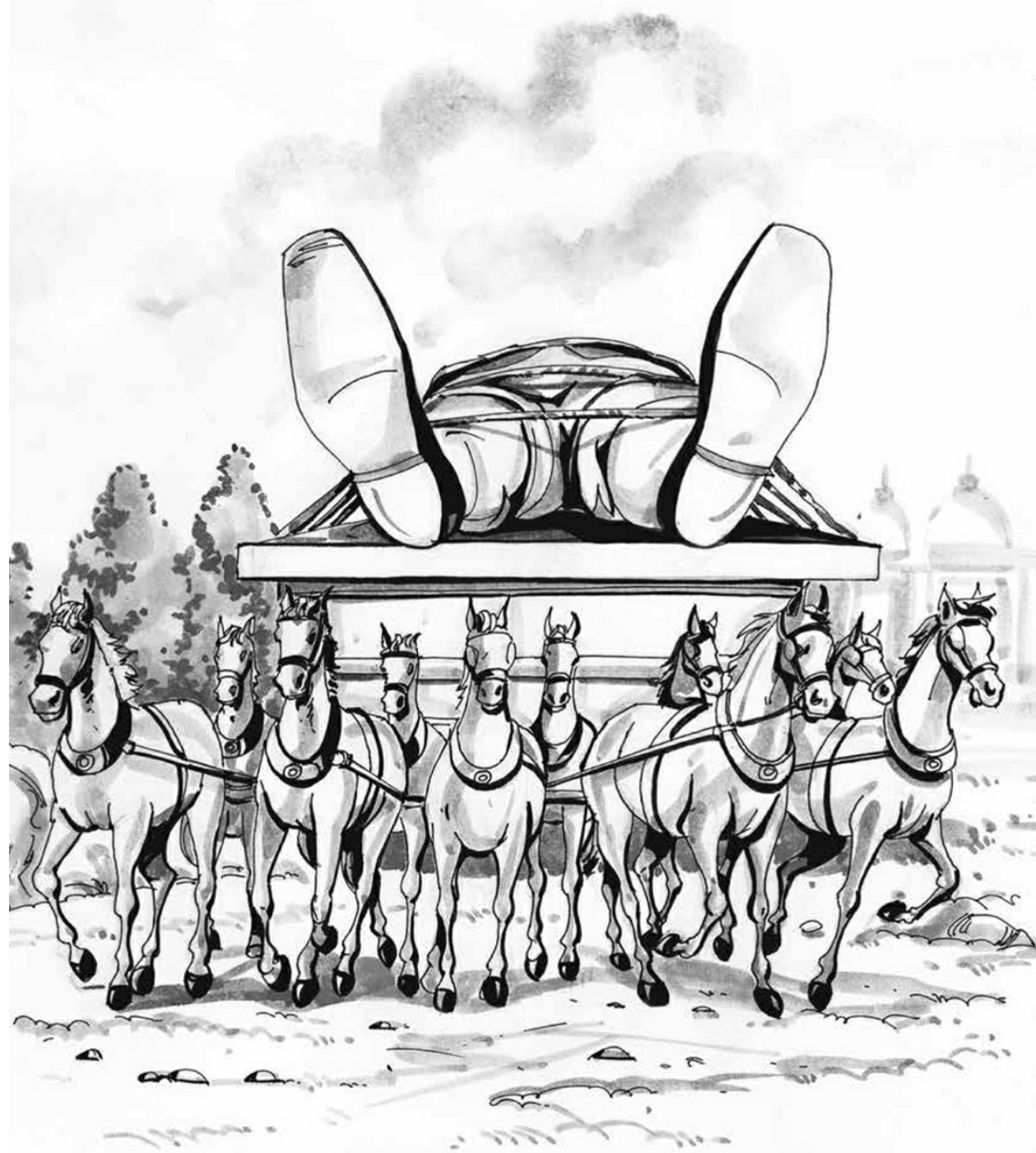






The minister seemed happy when I agreed and shouted to his men standing below. Then, he went away and after him came some men with something that had a sweet fragrance. They crawled on my face and hands, applying that ointment on the sores and injuries and the sting of the arrows was gone. I was still tired and started feeling sleepy again. I went off to sleep for some hours. It was later revealed to me that the Emperor had asked the physician to mix some sedatives in my drink, so that I would sleep and he could get me into the capital city without any problem.

For transporting me, the Emperor called out to his carpenters and some other men to make the largest flat car. They had large vehicles already to transport trees, but this was supposed to be different. Some intelligent men designed the frame as a thick piece of wood, seven feet long and four feet wide, and to be able to move, it had twenty-two wheels attached to it, raising the frame three inches above the ground. I didn't know how these men put me on that flat car, but when I was finally awake, I found myself on it. I was surprised at the capability of these men who worked with such speed and were so intelligent so as to transfer me from the ground to that flat car.



Later, I was told that the Lilliputians, the people who lived in Lilliput, had figured out a solution, applying pulleys to lift me above the ground and put me on the wooden car. They had brilliant minds and made use of ten thousand of their strongest men to pull the cords as I slept. What shocked me was that this was all done in just two hours. How they transported me is even more surprising, as they tied the flat car to the strongest horses. The horses pulled me, and I had a thousand men on my side, as we slowly made our journey to the capital city, Mildendo. We travelled along the vibrant countryside, with trees and plants all around us. Then, the night fell and we rested and continued our journey in the morning. At noon, we finally arrived at the city gates, waiting for them to open.

At last, the Emperor walked towards me, and stood at a safe distance as his ministers wouldn't allow him to step on my body, fearing that I might harm him. The Emperor and his ministers went on to an enclosure on the city walls. Standing above me, the Emperor looked at me, from top to bottom, wondering at the size of my body. I could see other townsmen also gathered around me, and watching me closely with their intent and curious eyes.

Just then, I heard that the Emperor was giving a speech and making an announcement, pointing at me, and then to a place some thirty feet away from where we were. I got to know afterwards that this place was a deserted temple. It was shut down since someone had been killed there. The place was to be my home as there was no other place in the whole of Lilliput as tall as this temple was. I could hardly lie down in a temple with a height of four feet and just a two feet wide gate. The temple was clearly not big enough for me.



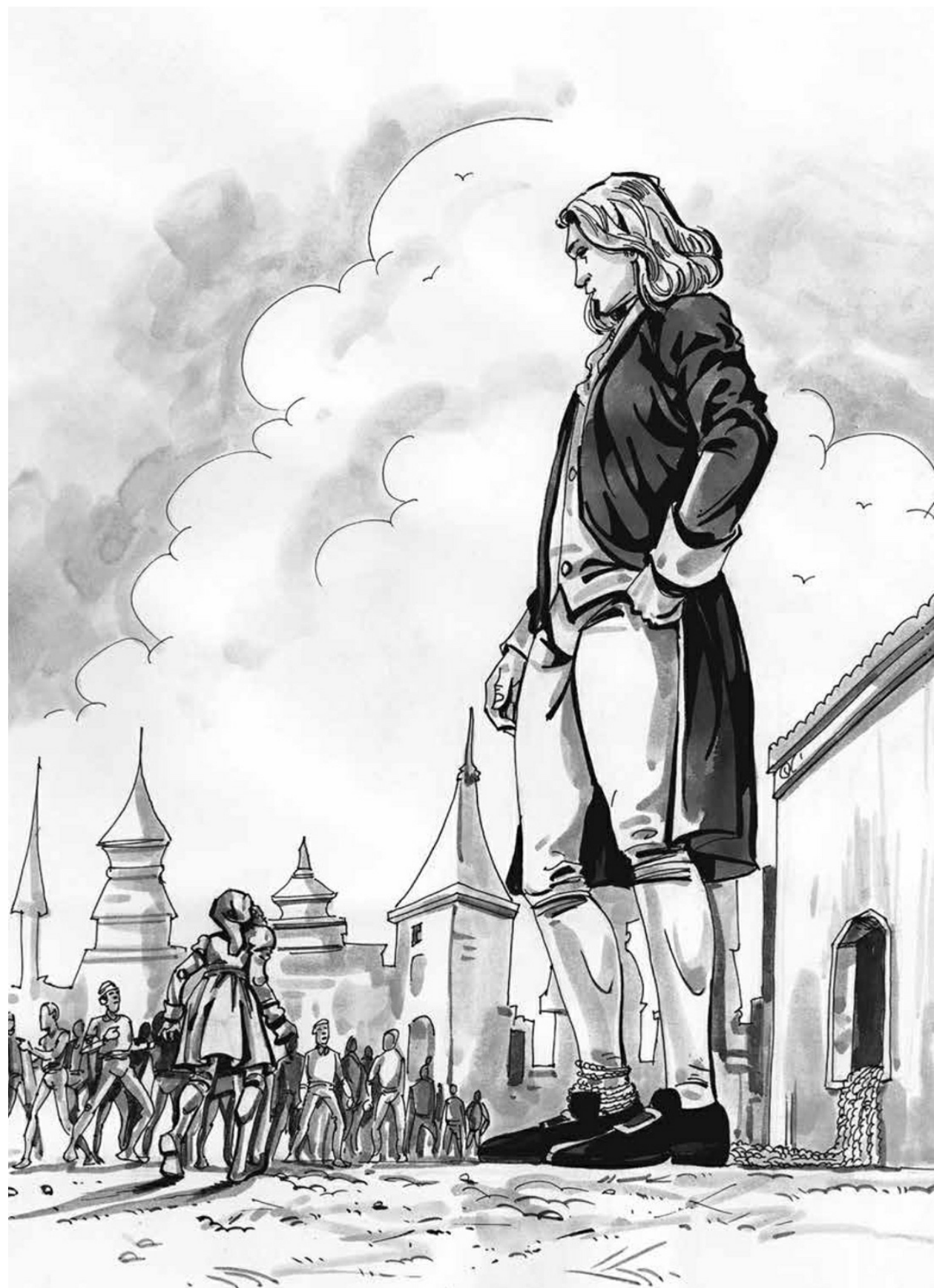


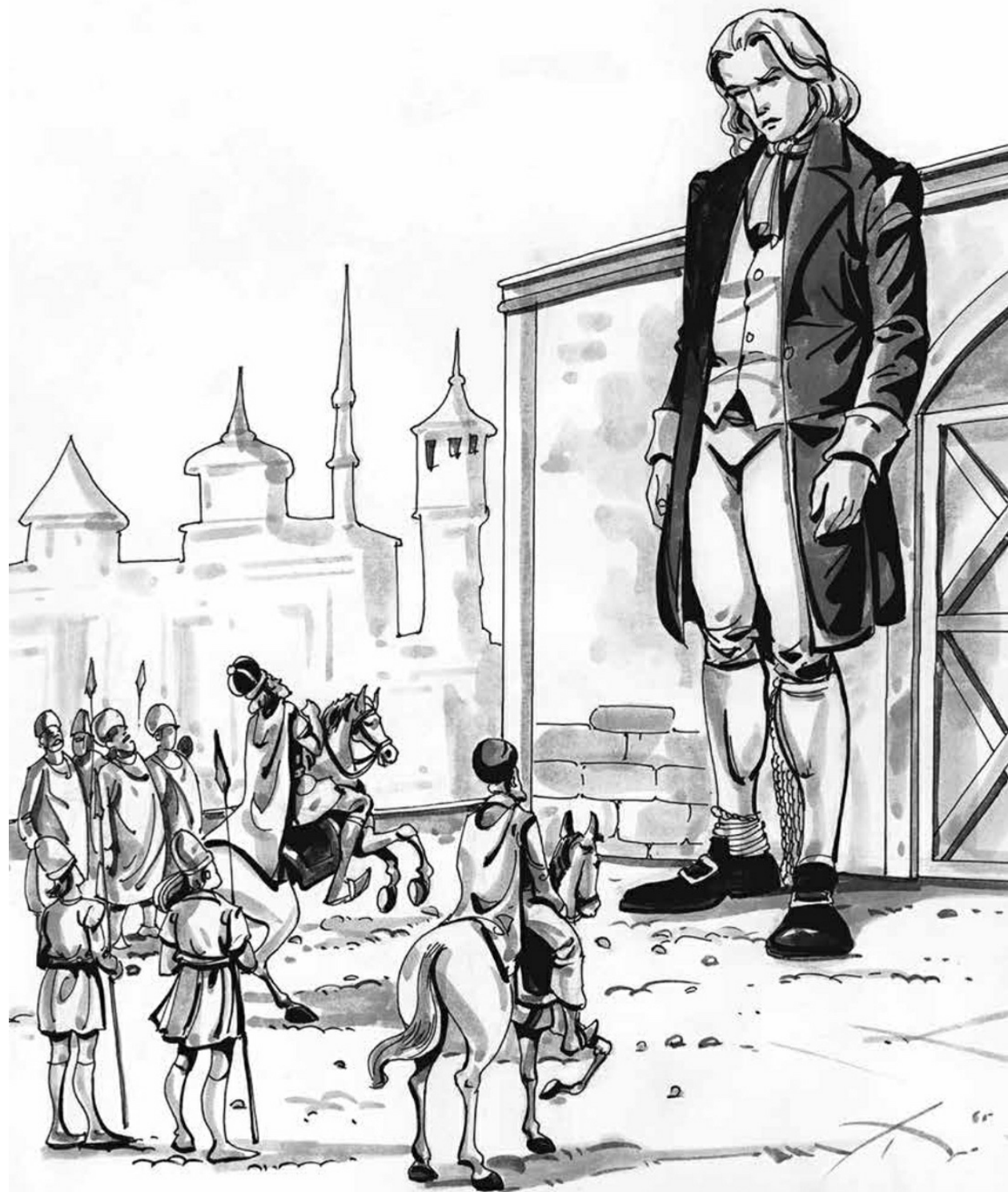


A thousand chains were tied to the wall near the gate by the skilled blacksmiths of Lilliput, and when I reached there, the chains were fastened to my right leg with some forty padlocks to make sure that I don't leave that place and remain a prisoner. All this was done because the Emperor had ordered the blacksmiths to ensure that I wouldn't break free from the chains and cause any damage to the town or its people. The blacksmiths did their work and assured the Emperor that everything was under control. After I was tied to the wall, the Emperor sent some men to cut the cords and free me from the strings around my body.

I was thankful to the Emperor for being so thoughtful. I stood up after I was free, and stretched my tired and strained body. As I got up, I heard noises from the tiny people on the ground. I could hear them gasping in excitement looking at the size of my body. I eased myself by walking in whatever space I had, but it scared the Lilliputians. I looked around me and saw the city. The capital city, Mildendo, was beautifully made and was an architectural marvel in itself. It was constructed in a square, surrounded by walls to protect the city from any enemy attacks. The city had two major roads that intersected at the palace of the Emperor. At some distance from the palace, surrounding it, there were single, double and triple storey houses of the people who lived in the town. I could also see some narrow lanes and streets that took the people from one place to another, and the market place was full of shops catering to the needs of the ten thousand Lilliputians. I liked what I saw, as the perfection with which they had built their town was worth admiring. Now, Lilliput was to be my new home, where I would live.



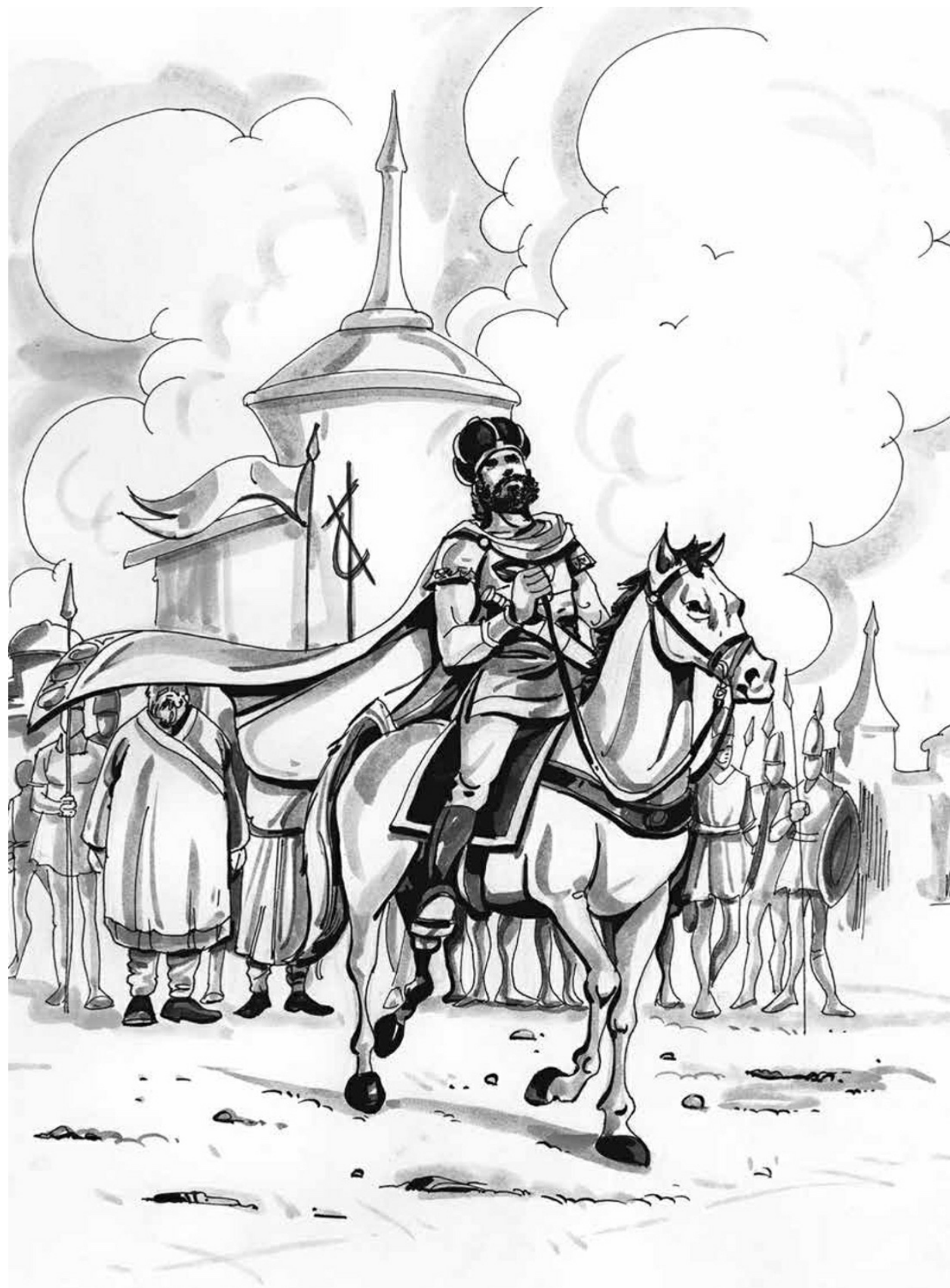




## Chapter Three

### The Search

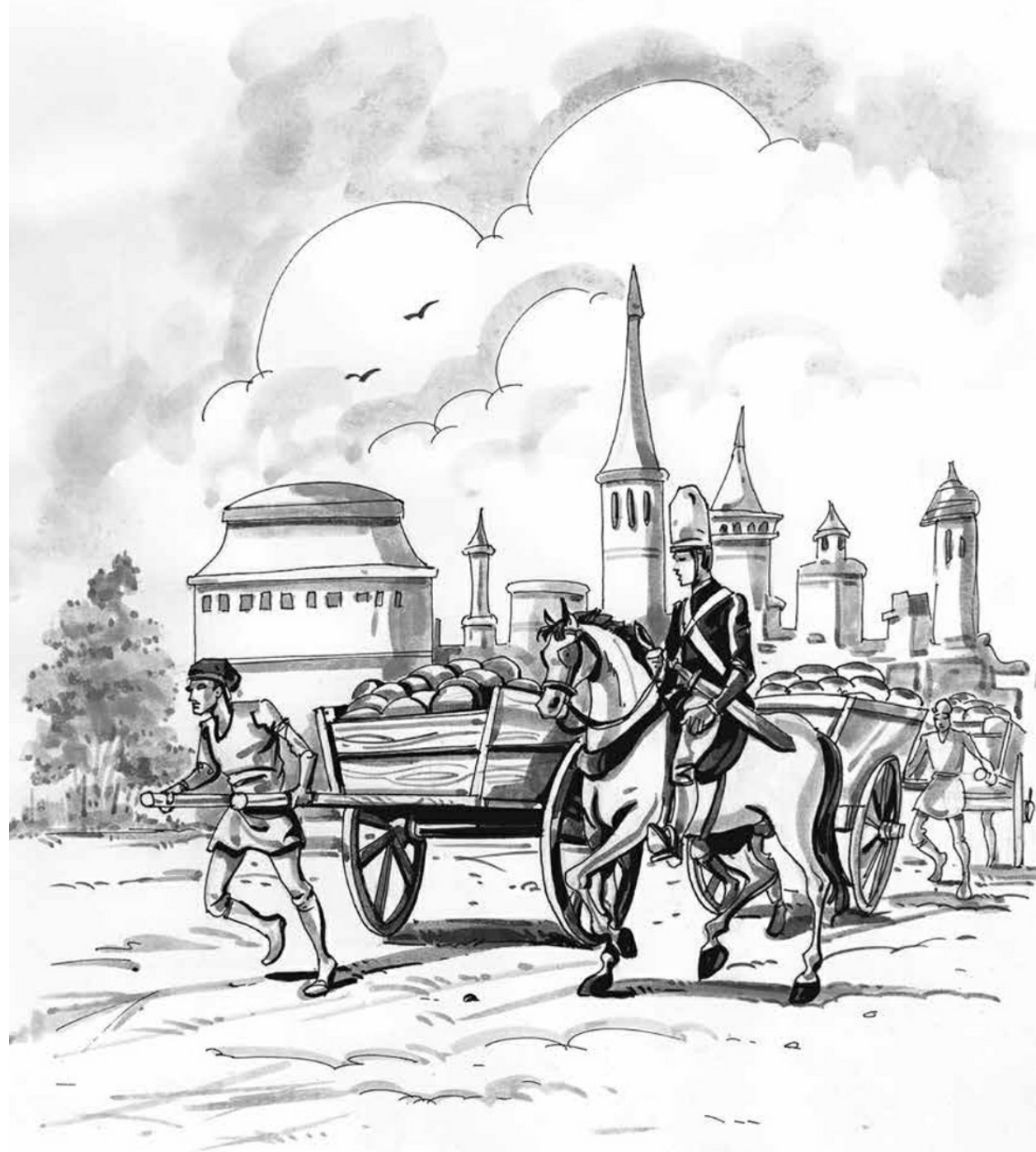
After I had stretched my muscles and relaxed my body, I wanted to see what my new abode was like. I had to bend down and crane my neck into the four feet space that I had been given. Though it was small for me, I was happy that I had a place to sleep, and I could actually lie down in full length. I was still exploring the insides of my new home, when I heard some noise outside. I came out of the house, and saw the Emperor coming down from the wall where he was standing with his ministers. He climbed onto a horse and started coming towards me. The steed was clearly afraid of coming close to me and went back a few steps when it saw me. The Emperor on the other hand was not scared of me at all. To both of them, I was like a huge mountain, and the horse was naturally scared at the sight of me, but the Emperor was trying to control it with his excellent horsemanship.



The Emperor calmed the horse and tied it at a distance from me. He himself didn't come near me, although I was fastened with a thousand chains. The Emperor was seven inches tall, and it seemed to me that he was quite tall compared to the rest of the Lilliputians. I wanted to see his face and for that I had to sit on my knees on the ground. As I looked at him closely, he looked to me a man who was in his middle years, had a bright and proud face. His robe was simple yet elegantly designed, and he wore a crown of gold decorated with precious stones. As he came nearer, he drew out his diamond-studded sword for his protection, as if I might harm him in some way. The Emperor also looked at me, filled with wonder.

Addressing me, the Emperor muttered something unintelligible in his language. I also tried to say something in English, hoping that he would understand. But, it was of no use, as we both couldn't make sense of each other's words. Then, the Emperor clapped his hands, and in came a team of people, who looked like his advisors. They were also dressed in grand robes and I took them to be lawyers and priests. Now, they addressed me, but the result was the same, even when I tried speaking in every language I knew. All the languages — English, Dutch, Spanish, Latin, French — were like Greek to the Lilliputian advisors. I had no choice but to learn the Lilliputian tongue as early as I possibly could.

The Emperor had also called the royal cooks and butlers for preparing food for me and feeding me. They were all waiting for the Emperor's order to start with their work. As the Emperor signaled to them for food, they brought in fifteen carts of meat and bread, one after the other. Then, another five carts carrying many barrels were brought in. The barrels had sweet wine and I gulped everything, emptying the vessels. Then, after positioning some guards at my sides to save me from the crowd desperate to see me, the Emperor left. Many people had gathered around me to take a look at the gigantic creature on their island. But, some people in the crowd were not just eager to see me, but also shot arrows at me just for some fun.











I was terrified when an arrow hit near my eye. The guards near me caught the men who were hitting me, and tied their hands. Then, they pushed their backs with sharp swords, to move the trouble-makers toward me. The men trembled with fear coming near me but had no alternative, and as they reached near me, I caught five of the men and put them into my pocket. The crowd gasped when I held the sixth man by his shirt and started taking him near my mouth, as if to eat him. The man was terrorized, and started pleading. The crowd stood there in fear. The next moment itself, I had put all the men on the ground, and using the knife in my pocket, I cut their ropes, freeing them. All of them ran away as fast as possible to save themselves, and I also heard a sigh of relief escape from the crowd. The people in the crowd were happy and satisfied to see my human side.



This was an important event in the history of Lilliput. I continued living in my home tied to the temple gate. For some days, I slept on the hard stone ground of my new home, but I found out that the Emperor had already asked for a huge bed to made for me to lie in comfortably. It was prepared in some days, but the mattress was still to be made. Many of the Lilliputians came and took measurements for the size of the mattress. Finally, my mattress was made with a thousand of their mattresses. My bed sheet and the blanket to cover myself from cold weather were prepared in a similar manner.



After some days of staying in the capital city, I was still the centre of attraction, as many people left their work and their families to come and look at me. The Emperor asked the secretary of the state to keep a check on who all were coming to see me and even charged a fee for putting me on display.

People had to first take permission from the secretary of the kingdom to see me. In the meantime, the Emperor was in a fix, thinking about what was to be done with me. He called his most intelligent men and his advisors together for a meeting to find a solution for this big problem that stood before them. I knew all this because I had become good friends with one of the Lilliputians, who kept me abreast with all important news.

He informed me about everything that was taking place in the royal palace. He told me, "Some people are scared of the idea that you might break the chains and escape. Some are concerned about your food demand as feeding you could cause a shortage of food for the people here, so they don't want their people to starve because of you. Some other people think that you should be killed by poisonous arrows, but then they dropped the plan thinking about what would happen if your body started decaying and caused an epidemic." I asked him about their final decision regarding me.

My friend continued, "While all were talking about what was to be done, some officers came forward and told the Emperor of your merciful nature when you let the trouble-makers go without any harm. The Emperor was even more impressed with you and some moments later, asked his minister to spread the news in the nearby villages that they need to come to palace every day with five oxen, thirty sheep, bread and wine for feeding you. He also promised to pay the villagers not from the kingdom's treasure, but from his own money. The King never commands his villagers to work for him. He is really kind."



I was full of admiration for such an Emperor, who was so great and fair. I could never imagine such a King ruling over England, the place where I came from. My friend further told me, "The Emperor has also ordered some five hundred men to be near you and is getting some tents set up for them to stay. They are tailors who will take your measurements and stitch new clothes for you. The Emperor, I think, is really concerned about you."

My friend was right, after a few days, the Emperor sent some of his learned men to teach me their language. And surprisingly, sometimes the Emperor would himself come and check on how I was progressing. I quickly learnt the new language and finding the right opportunity, I pleaded to the Emperor to set me free and remove my chains. The Emperor's face had an expression of sympathy and he assured me that when the time was right, he would set me free.

The Emperor then requested me, "I wanted to ask you something. In Lilliput, we have this law that if someone new enters our land, he has to be searched. You have been here for some days now, and I wanted that you be searched as well. Everyone would suspect someone as huge as you to be carrying some dangerous instruments. For that reason, I want my men to search your clothes. Whatever will be found, will be given back to you when you go from here." I wanted to assure the Emperor that I didn't have any weapons with me. I indicated this to him by turning my pockets out, and telling him that I would never mean any harm. I asked the Emperor to send some of his men to search my pockets. When his men came, I put them in my shirt pockets and then in my trouser pockets. I didn't let them search the pocket which had my compass, telescope, and glasses as I couldn't afford them to be taken away from me.





When the search had finished, the Emperor's men made a list of the things they had found. They wrote, "In the Great Man-Mountain's jacket's right pocket, one huge piece of cloth and a thick board covering a folded bundle of thin, white paper filled with black marks and tied with a strong cord were found." The piece of cloth was my handkerchief and the bundle was my journal. The list was showed to me, and there was something very queer in the way they wrote on a page. It was very different from how we write on a page; it was not from right to left or left to right or from top to bottom. They wrote starting from one corner of the page to the opposite one, coming out in a slanting manner.







I started reading the list with some difficulty, and the list continued. “In the left pocket of his jacket, we found a big silver chest, which we couldn’t take out as it was too heavy. The Man-Mountain took it out for us to inspect. He opened it and we stepped into it and as we looked we found ourselves in knee-deep white dust, which made us sneeze. We found another object which was a kind of instrument with some twenty-five poles attached to it.” They were describing my snuff box and comb.

“The right pocket of his trouser had a hollow iron tube, which was attached to a strong piece of wood. The iron was made in a way that the Man-Mountain could put his finger in the gap and make a clicking sound by pressing it.” This was my pistol. “In the left pocket of his trousers, we found two flat iron sticks, and a shiny steel plate seemed to be hidden in each stick. The instrument seemed dangerous to us and upon asking the Man-Mountain, he told us that he used to shave and cut his meat using it.”

They also checked my vest which had two pockets, and wrote, “Out of one pocket, we found a silver chain with a wonderful round engine at its bottom. The engine was partly made of silver and partly of some clear material covered with strange figures drawn in a circle. A pointed spear-like thing slowly moved around the circle, continuously making a sound, and it seemed alive to us. It might be his god. On asking him, the Man-Mountain told us that the engine was very important for him, and was useful for him to determine where he was.” The engine was my watch, which I consulted throughout the day. “Out of the other pocket, he took out a net that looked and opened like a purse, which had many small pieces of some yellow-coloured metal, like gold, could be valuable.”





“On his waist, the Man-Mountain wears a belt made of some animal’s skin, and attached to his belt, there hung a long sword, and a pouch with two

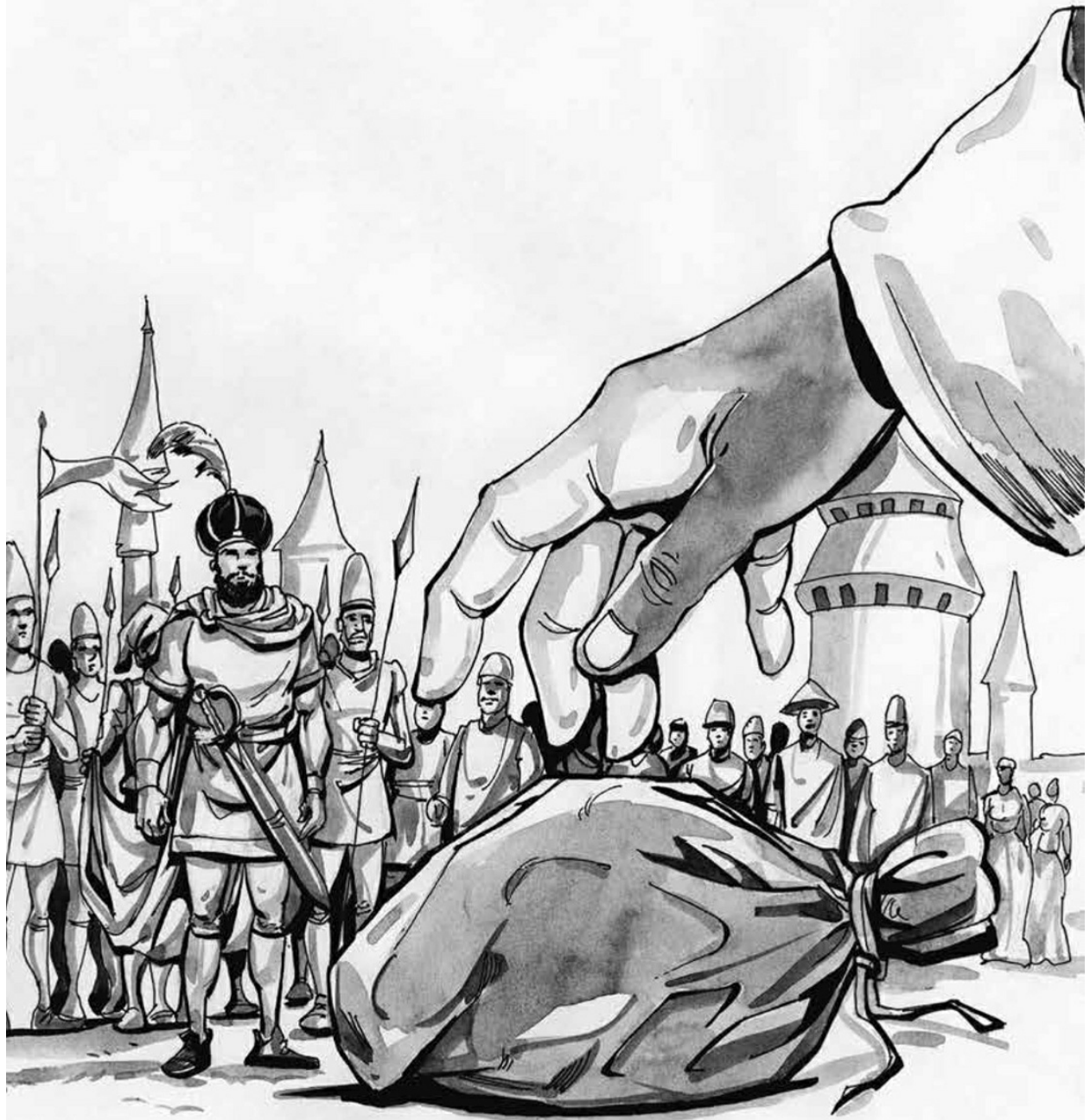
separations. One of them contained small balls of metal and the other contained grain like particles.” The balls were the bullets for my pistol and the particles were the gunpowder. The list ended like this, “This is the complete list of whatever was found in the clothes of the Man-Mountain. It has been signed and approved by the Man-Mountain himself, and Your Majesty on the 7th day of the 89th moon of His Highness’s golden rule.”





Everything seemed fine to me, but the Emperor wanted me to show my sword to him. I took the shining sword out of the sheath, which left the Emperor's army terrified. The Emperor remained calm and asked me to place the sword on the ground. I followed his orders, and kept the weapon on the ground. Then, the Emperor asked me to show him the pistol and tell him how to operate it. I informed him about how to load the pistol. Then, the Emperor wanted to know how the weapon worked. I warned him in advance that the pistol would make a loud blasting noise, but no one would be hurt. I fired, and the people standing on the ground, fell from the loud noise of the shot. They were amazed and scared at the same time.

Then, the Emperor asked me to put the pistol on the ground beside the sword. I handed over the pouch that contained the bullets and gunpowder to the Emperor by placing it on the ground, but I also told him that the gunpowder could be really harmful, and if it caught fire, there could be a deadly blast. The Emperor assured me that he and his men would take care of my belongings in the best possible way.





## Chapter Four

### Freedom

As time passed, I remained modest and humble in my approach towards the people of Lilliput. My behaviour was polite and gentle towards them, and thus they began trusting me, and stopped getting scared of me. Some of them even made friends with me, danced on my hands, and some even allowed their children to play in my hair without anything to fear. What I wanted was freedom, and I was hopeful of getting it someday, as I was on friendly terms with people in the town. I hoped that considering at good behaviour, the Emperor would set me free.

While I was tied outside the temple gate, the Emperor had made arrangements for my entertainment. I was filled with wonder to see some men walking quite efficiently on a rope tied two feet above the ground. I came to understand that this was a special procedure in Lilliput. Important ministers were selected and placed after contending in this manner. The criteria was simple yet funny, stating that whosoever walked on the rope without falling off or even performed the best dance would be the perfect minister. I was amused to know that ministers who already were appointed also had to participate in this rope show to prove that they had not lost their skill and deserved the place they held in the court.

I was rather amused to know that the court treasurer, Flimnap, won his place in the office by jumping an inch higher than others and even performed

some additional tricks while standing on a wooden board that was balanced by a rope. My good friend, Reldresal, was as dedicated and skilful as the treasurer. I came to know about some other contests in which the Emperor held a stick in his hand, and changed its position within seconds and the candidate had to jump over it or crawl beneath it, and whosoever did it in the most graceful and skilful manner would win the competition. The contestants who stood first were awarded blue ribbons, red ribbons were given to the second position holders and green ribbons came in the hands of men who stood third. All would proudly display their award by tying the silk ribbons on their waist.









Now, the people and even the horses were not scared of me. So, the Lilliputians used to get their horses for practice, and the horses would jump over my hand on the ground with riders on their back. It was amazing to see one man even jump over my feet, while I had my shoes on. Days went by like this, and even weeks passed, but I kept requesting the Emperor to set me free. All the ministers were also in favour of setting me free. They even went and talked to the Emperor about it. The only person against my freedom was the holder of the important title “High Admiral of the Realm”. His name was Skyresh Bolgolam. From the beginning he had decided to be my enemy. But, after every minister forced him to change his opinion, he changed it in a small way, by telling me that I would be set free only if I agreed to certain conditions.



He had his list in his hand, and clearing his throat, he began reading it, “Gullvasto Shomarin Kuala Greata Richie Michie, the great and powerful Emperor of Lilliput, the one who is lofty, and mighty in this entire universe, whose shine and brilliance may overpower the sun, asks the Man-Mountain to agree to the following conditions if he wishes to be free:

The Man-Mountain won’t enter the city without permission. He would have to inform before he enters the city, so that the people of Lilliput can be asked to be inside their houses and not roam on the streets outside. He cannot leave our kingdom without permission. If he wishes to visit the city, he will only take the big roads and not enter the narrow lanes. While walking, he should be careful to watch his step and not trample over anyone. He should mind his feet so as not to hit any carriage. Never should he lie down in our fields. He should not pick up any Lilliputian unless he is asked to. He should be happy to transport the Emperor and his ministers from one place to another during long journeys and safely get them back.

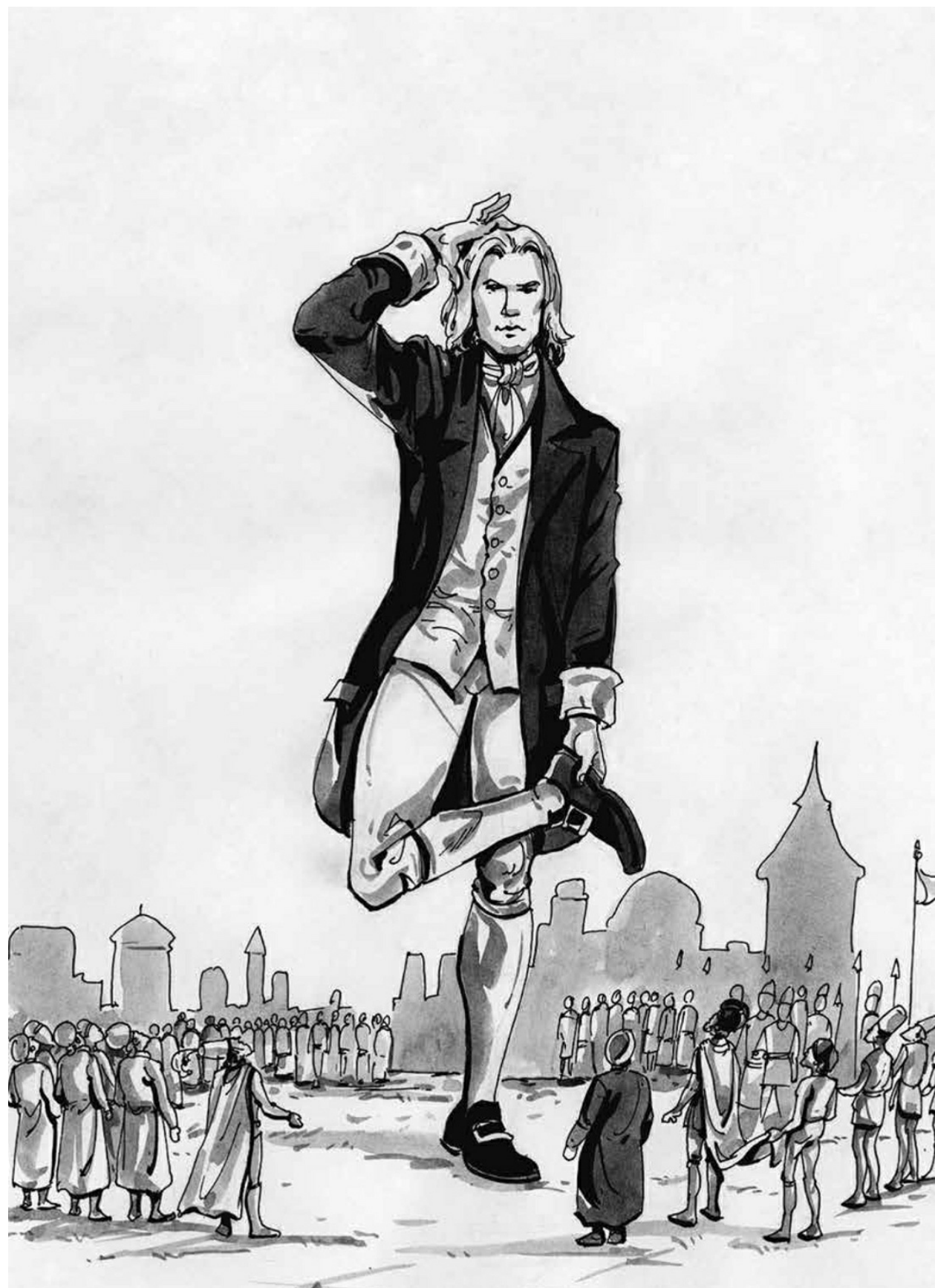


“He should also join the army of Lilliput if an enemy would attack and protect his people. He would aid the Lilliputian fleet to destroy the enemy’s army and fleet from the island of Blefuscu. The Blefuscu army is planning to attack Lilliput, so we expect his support. He would also help in lifting huge rocks and stones for our men to build walls. He would also walk around the entire Lilliput coast to measure its circumference.

“If the Man-Mountain agrees to all the conditions mentioned, he would be provided food that feeds two thousand of our men. This is the order of His Highness, on the 13th day of the 95th moon of his mighty rule.”

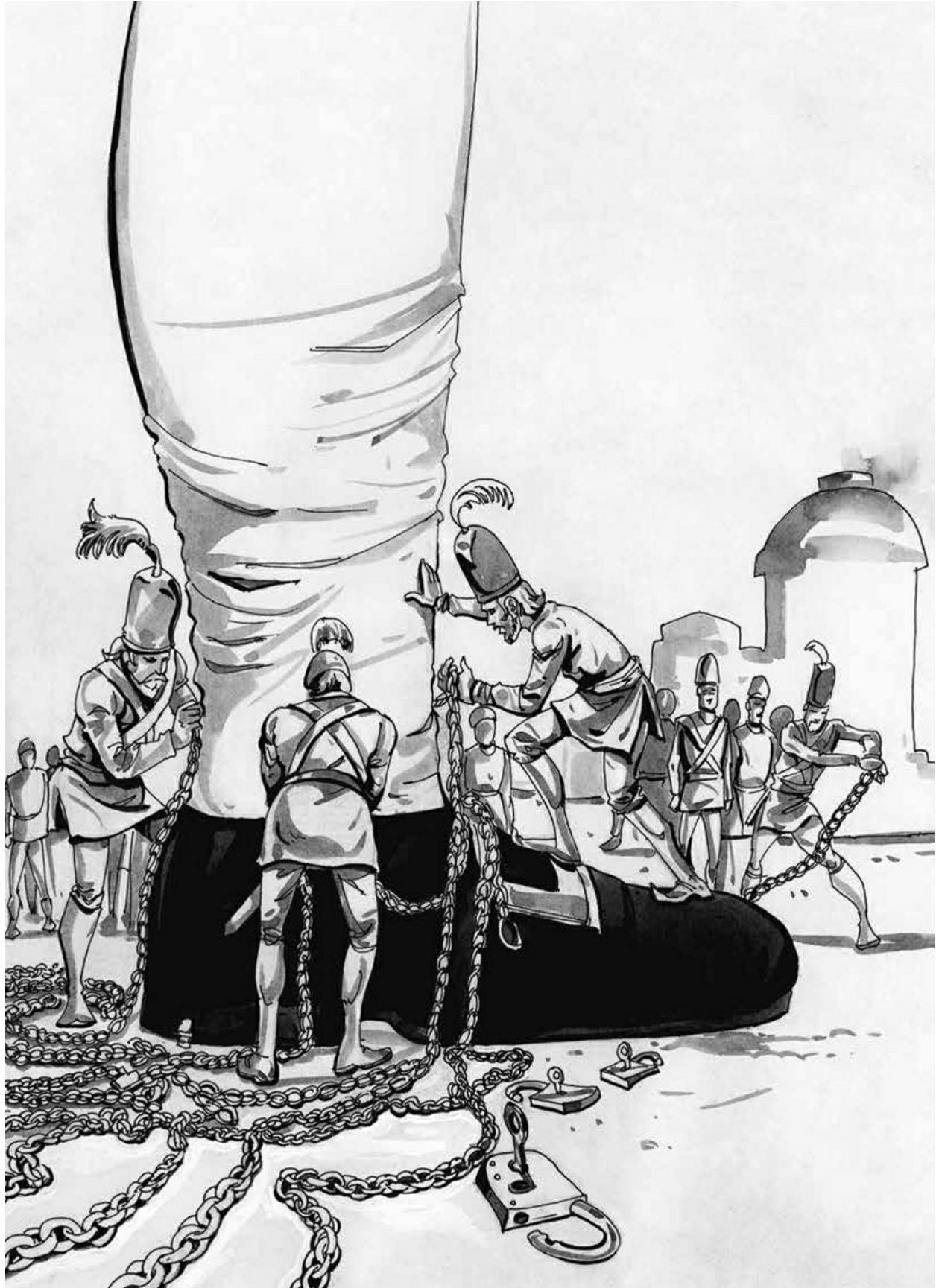
I agreed to all the conditions without thinking twice, and even knew that the wicked Skyresh was responsible for some of the conditions. Skyresh asked me to follow the laws of the Lilliputian government and swear to all the conditions. I was confused as to how I had to swear in the Lilliputian way, but I knew something amusing was coming my way. I asked him the procedure of swearing and he told me to hold my right foot in my left hand, place the middle finger of my right hand on the top of my head and my thumb on the tip of my right ear, and to whisper the Emperor’s name as I did all of this.

All this was not new to me as I was in Lilliput, a strange land with amusing customs. Without delay, I said the endlessly long name of the Emperor and swore that I would follow all the conditions honestly. As I relaxed after the strain of the awkward position I had been asked to hold, Skyresh came forward and asked the Emperor’s men to open the locks. After a long, long wait, finally I was free.











## Chapter Five

### War

After I was free, I told the Emperor that I desired to see what Mildendo looked like from the inside. The Emperor gave me permission but asked me to watch where I stepped, and also to be thoughtful about people's houses and belongings. Everyone in the city was told beforehand about my arrival in Mildendo and people were advised to stay indoors for their safety. But, the people were as curious as I was, so they came out on their roofs to watch me as I surveyed the city.

I carefully controlled my feet and tried to balance myself as I climbed over the city wall. I walked on the main road that led to the palace at the center. And when I reached the palace, I climbed the palace wall to enter a large courtyard. The Emperor wished that I should see all the parts of the palace and even visit his royal apartments where he resided. To my disappointment, I couldn't travel easily in the narrow lanes of the palace and I thought of a solution. I went to the nearby forest area and cut some trees and made two strong stools for me to stand on.



The stools were very helpful in making my visit to the palace comparatively easier than before. I used to place one stool in the large courtyard and another one in the small courtyard, and wherever I wished to go, I could place the other stool carefully, and then stand on it. This way I was able to see the innermost parts of the palace. I used to lay on one of my sides and bring my eyes close to the rooms in the royal apartments looking at the luxury inside. I also saw the Empress watching the young prince play, with many attendants and maids around to wait on them. When the Empress saw that I was peeping through the windows, she came out in the balcony and offered me her hand. I was honoured by her simple gesture, and I held her hand and gently kissed it.

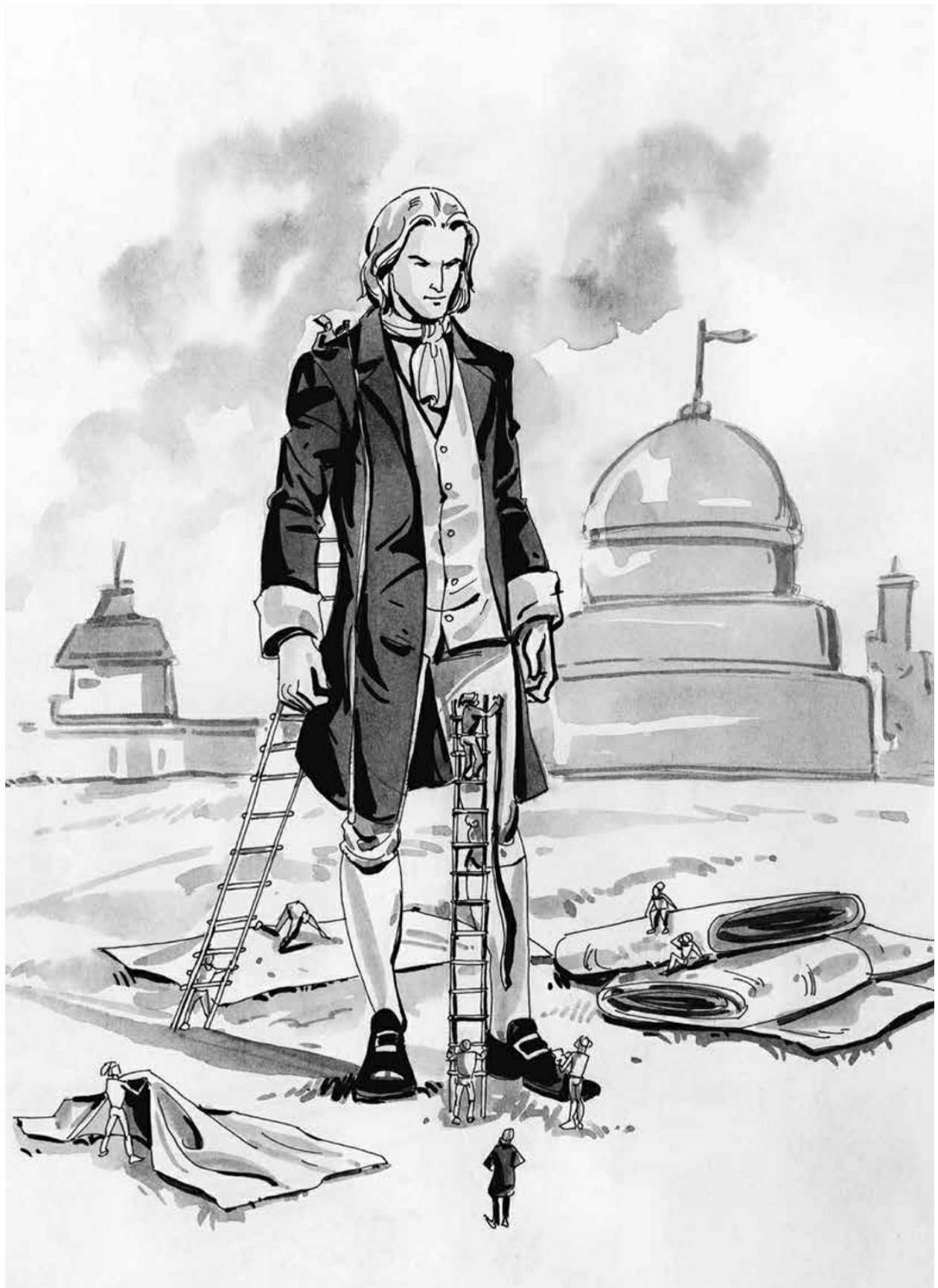
But, what surprised me was that the young prince could stay with his parents but it was not so in the normal Lilliputian homes, as the children didn't live with their parents at all. I was shocked to hear this that when a child was born here, he would be with his parents only for a few months. He would then be sent to the nursery and later the school would take care of him. The parents could only meet their children twice a year and for not more than thirty minutes.

Discovering the Lilliputian laws, customs and traditions, I was happy with all the privileges that came with my freedom. I was grateful to the Emperor for granting my wishes. After some time passed, I even asked the Emperor if I could go out in the royal park to cut the largest trees, so as to make a table and chair for me to use during the meal times. The Emperor even asked his men to help me out in making the chair and table. Five hundred cooks cooked meals for me and were amused to see me eat so much.











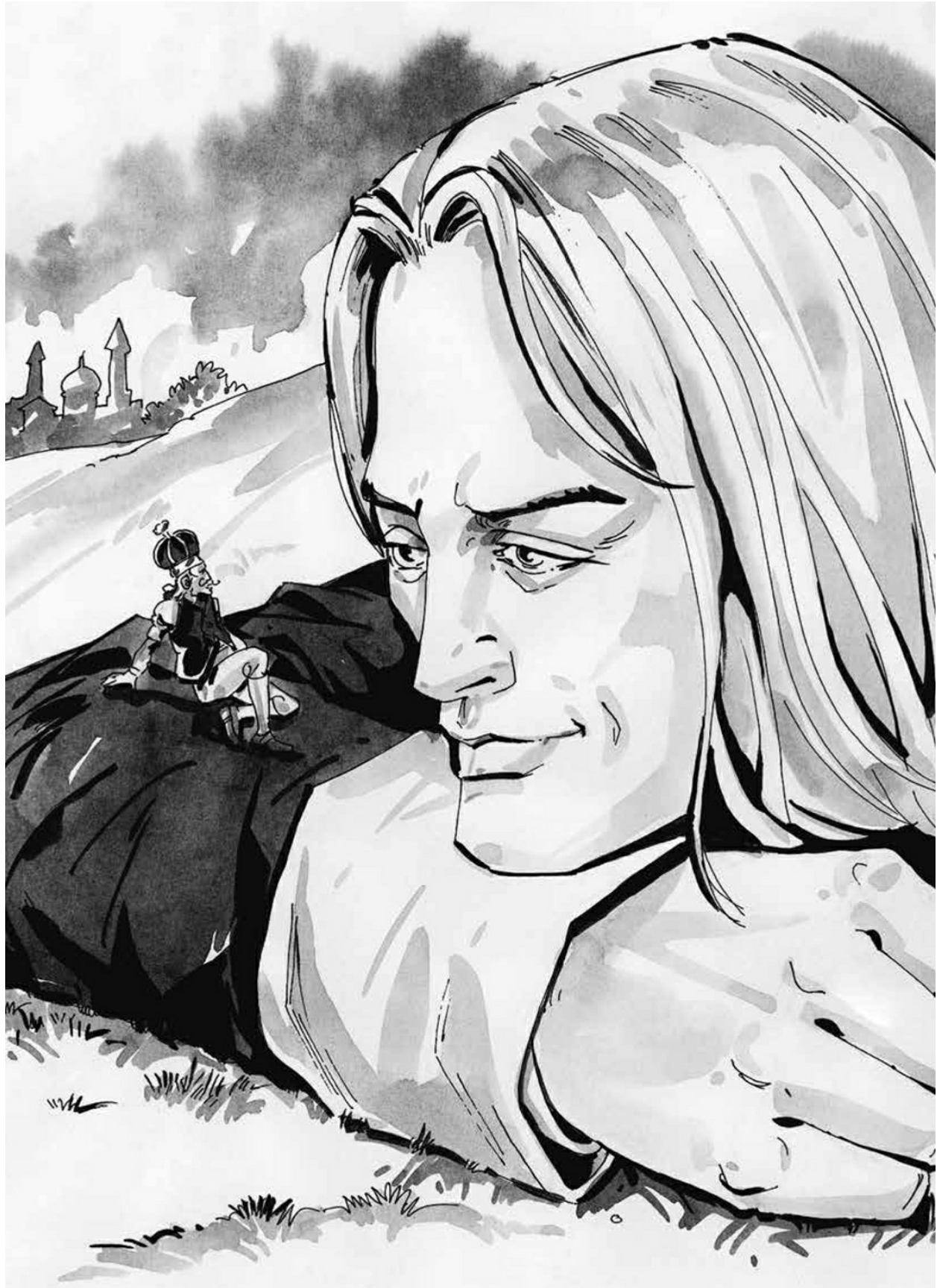
The Emperor ordered that new clothes be made for me, and for this task, he arranged for three hundred tailors who would climb the ladders to measure me and then prepare my new shirt copying from the design of my old one. Since, they didn't have so much of cloth, they made my suit out of what seemed like patches to me and the end result was a suit made of patches of various colours used as bed linen in English homes. After I looked presentable enough with my new clothes on, I invited the royal family and ministers for a dinner at my place. When they came, they placed their own chairs which they had brought with them, on my table and sat on it. I enjoyed my food to show the Emperor that I was really happy with what I got from him.



But, Flimnap wasn't very happy when I showed my happiness and frowned at me when the Emperor was not looking. I had guessed that Flimnap didn't like me and could be my enemy. And, I was right! The dinner was a part of his secret plan to convince the Emperor that my upkeep was costing the kingdom too much. The treasure was decreasing day by day as my food, drinks, and clothes, everything led to the kingdom's loss of its most valuable gold coin. Millions had already been spent on me, and Flimnap wanted the Emperor to notice that and finally send me off somewhere else.

This was not the end of Flimnap's enmity with me, as he was very jealous when his wife and my friendship started. His wife liked my company and used to come to see me with her sister and children. I liked entertaining them by talking about the styles and designs of clothing the English ladies followed in England, while they sat in their coaches on my table. I felt Flimnap's jealousy was rather absurd. It was foolish to even think about the lady and me in a romantic sense as this lady was just as tall as my finger! Flimnap always wanted to show me in a negative light in front of the Emperor. He hated how the Emperor used to spend lavishly on me, and now, his jealousy was another factor. So, I was confirmed that Flimnap was most certainly my enemy.

If I had made an enemy, I had also made a very good friend. Reldresal was a true friend, who did several things for me at court as he had all the news being the Emperor's private secretary. He was the one who could be trusted at any time. One day, as I was sitting outside my house for some fresh air, I saw him approaching me. He stopped, jumped from his horseback, and then came towards where I was sitting. I was happy to see him, but from his face I could make out that he wanted to speak to me about something important. He asked if I could spare some time to talk to him and I agreed. From his anxious looks it seemed he wished to discuss something confidential. I therefore offered to lie down so that he would whisper in my ear. But, he asked me to lift him up in his hand.







I did as he said and lifted him up, bringing him close to my face. He spoke, "I have come here to talk about some important things that can be a threat to Lilliput in future. One of the threats could be from a political group and the other could be an invasion from the powerful enemies in Blefuscu. I wasn't aware of the danger these two posed to Lilliput. Then, he proceeded with his explanation, telling me about the political group that could cause a problem. He informed me that there were two groups in Lilliput, one was the Tramecksan and the other was the Slamecksan. Everything in Lilliput was amusing for me, as when Reldresal told me that the groups could be differentiated from each other from the size of heels they wore, I was quite surprised. He told me that the people who wore high heels were Tramecksan, who believed in the ancient rules and customs, and the ones who wore low heels were Slamecksan, who obeyed the Emperor's new laws, and were faithful to him. All the important government offices were operated by the Slamecksan group, which supported the Emperor.





He continued telling me that the two groups were completely against each other and would even sit, talk or eat with one another. I thought that these people could easily talk about their differences and the problem would be naturally solved. But, the problem was something else. At that time, in Lilliput, they had more Slamecksan as they held important positions, but their fear was that the prince who was to inherit the throne after the Emperor had a slightly higher heel in one of his feet. So, everybody thought that there were more chances of him supporting Tramecksan rather than Slamecksan. I was more concerned about how the little prince was walking with uneven shoes but the Lilliputians' concern was quite different.



Brushing aside my thoughts about the issue, looking at Reldresal's serious face, I kept quiet for some time and let him speak. Then he moved to the other problem at hand. He told me about the threat that we faced from Blefuscu, which was also an empire similar to Lilliput, and was just a small way away from Lilliput. I wondered if Blefuscudians were as small as Lilliputians. And, Reldresal answered in the affirmative that they were tiny like Lilliputians in front of me, the Man-Mountain. He was also amazed to know that people like me existed in the universe. He had taken me to be a strange alien dropped from a star or some other heavenly body. He thought that if people like me existed, the world would be short of food and resources in a short time. I assured him that I was the inhabitant of this very earth, but lived quite far from them.

I was more interested to know about the reason of war between Lilliput and Blefuscu. Reldresal told me that the war had started long back during the childhood of the Emperor's grandfather. When his grandfather was a boy, they followed a tradition to break the egg at the big end and while doing so, he cut his finger. After that day, the grandfather's father, the Emperor at that time, issued a law that people would have to break eggs open at the small end or they should be ready for punishment. I was shocked like before to hear that the real cause of this disagreement and war was about breaking eggs.



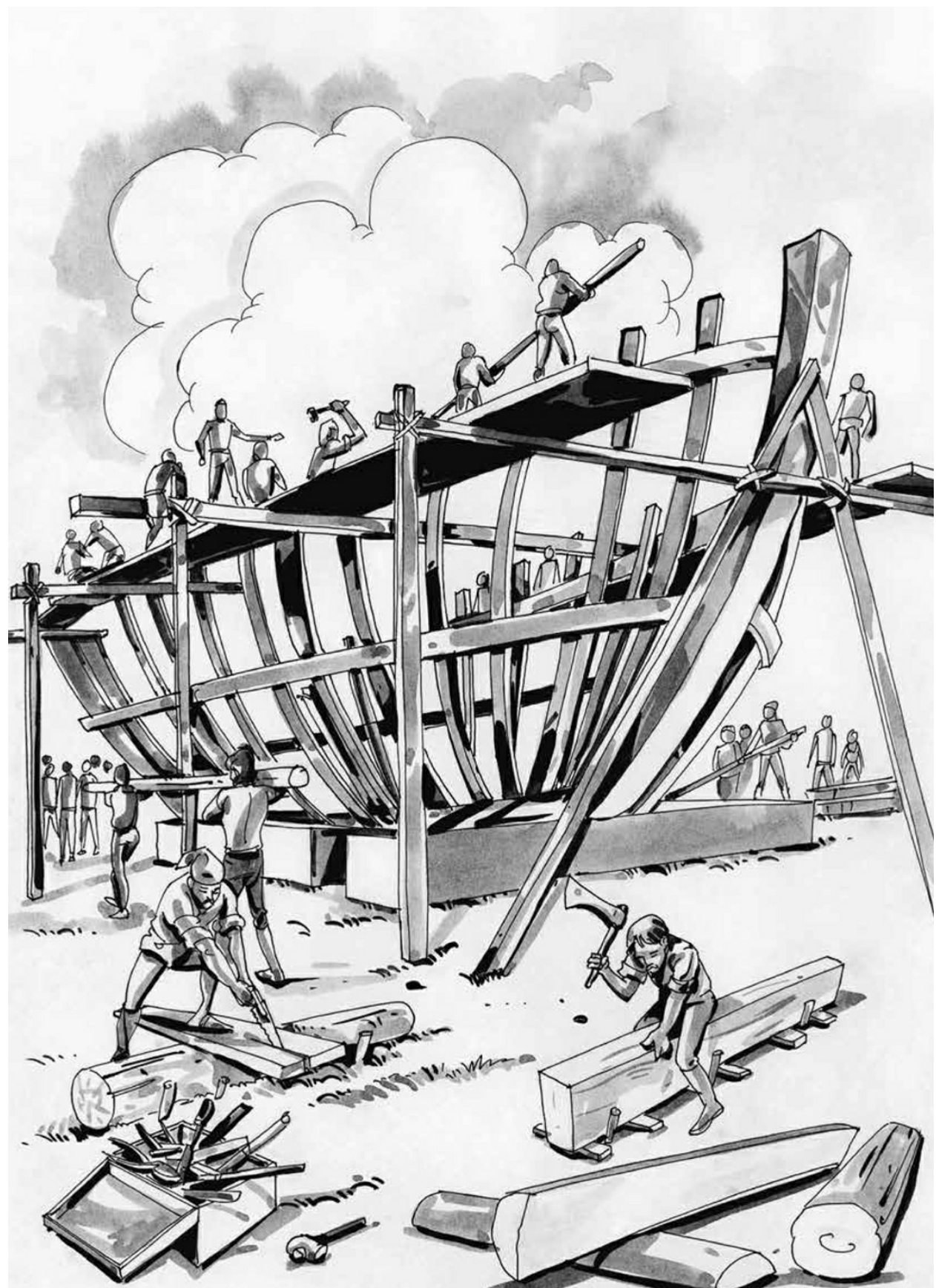
He further informed me that the people of Blefuscu were not happy with this new law and revolted against the Lilliput kingdom, and there had already been over seven wars because of this difference in opinion. One war led to the death of an Emperor and another led to the loss of one's throne. The gruesome part was when I came to know that some fifteen thousand people had to die because they broke eggs at the big end. This seemed unbelievable to me. Reldresal also told me that when the wars took place, the Emperor of Blefuscu would encourage some Lilliputians, who used to break eggs at the big end, known as the Big-Endians, to go against the Emperor, and whosoever did that, would find a place in the Blefuscu Empire.

What amazed me was that people were actually fighting over something as senseless as breaking eggs. How would it matter? But, it mattered to the Lilliputians and the Blefuscuans who continued to fight over this for such a long time. Reldresal further informed me that the Lilliputians had won some of the battles and the Blefuscuans also did win time to time. The Lilliput Empire had lost fifty huge ships, hundred small ships, some twenty thousand soldiers and sailors, and the Blefuscu Empire's loss was heard to be even greater than them. But, then they should have been weaker than the Lilliput Empire, thought I. So, why would they attack at all? My friend told me that during all this while they were focusing on just building up their fleet and army to attack Lilliput, and now they were ready.











I heard everything, but I was confused as to why had he come to me with all the problems. He told me that the Emperor thought of me as someone who is courageous and daring, and was certain that I would defend Lilliput Empire and its Emperor and protect Lilliputians from the danger that was to come. I was happy to know that finally I could do something for the kingdom and its Emperor so as to pay their kindness back in some way. I told Reldresal that I was all set for the war and would do everything possible to defend my kingdom, Lilliput. Thus, I prepared myself for the war with Blefuscu.



## Chapter Six

### Hero or Villain?

After I came to know about the attack that was planned, I was asked by the Emperor to not come near the coast, for I might be seen by the Blefuscudians. There was no contact or communication between Lilliput and Blefuscu, so there was hardly any chance that they would come to know of my existence. I had make use of my English mind to devise few plans to help Lilliput win the battle. I thought of capturing the Blefuscudian fleet and asked the Emperor to send some people to find out what was happening at the other end. They went and got some useful information for me. They told me that the Blefuscudian fleet was anchored in the harbour across the channel, and there were some preparations going on, which could be a sign that they were all prepared and were just waiting for the right wind to attack Lilliput. I got some additional information about the depth of the channel during high-tide and other times.



The channel was only four-feet deep generally, and the deepest was just six-feet, which was quite easy for me to cross. I went to the coast and hid behind a mountain to avoid being seen by the enemy. I remembered that I still had my telescope with me and quickly took it out of my pocket to see the Blefuscudian fleet. I saw around thirty huge warships and some other modes of transport in the harbour. An idea struck me, and I asked for some cable and iron bars. I twisted three cables to make them strong, and attached iron bars at one end and made a hook from the other. Then, I moved to the coast and dived into the water with fifty hooked cables at the appropriate time when the high-tide would not come. I started walking in water and as it got deeper and deeper, I swam across the channel till my feet touched bottom again. I crossed the channel in just half an hour.

The Blefuscudians were so terrified after seeing me that they jumped off their warships into the water. I attached all the hooks to their ships and held the loose ends in my hands. As I was doing this, I was attacked by many arrows, and to avoid any injury in my eyes, I wore my spectacles. Then, I took out my knife to cut their anchors, so that I could move their warships, and when all was done, I pulled the warships behind me without putting in much effort. I could hear their cries behind my back as I took their fleet away. While walking towards Lilliput, I removed the arrows from my face and body and continued walking in water.

The Emperor and some ministers were standing on the coast and waiting for me to return. But, they were scared when they saw fifty warships coming towards Lilliput. They couldn't see me as I was under water right upto my nose, and when they saw me they thought I had drowned. But, they were relieved to see me alive, when the water level was shallow, and I walked out of the water with fifty warships behind me. The Emperor was really happy to see me and even happier to see the Blefuscudian fleet. I was awarded the highest title in the kingdom called Nardac by the Emperor.



I was also happy to pay the Emperor back, but I was perturbed by his next demands. He wanted me to go to Blefuscu and get the remaining ships also. He wanted to rule Blefuscu and kill all the Big-Endians who defied him. Then, he wished that the law to break the egg at the small end would be applied on the people of both the kingdoms. I told the Emperor that I got all the warships, but I couldn't help him in killing innocent people, or make them slaves. The Emperor was furious hearing my words and went away. He was angry with me because I refused to be part of his conspiracies. I knew that some ministers supported my view but couldn't speak in front of the Emperor. Some had just the right opportunity to turn the Emperor against me by influencing him, and manipulating his anger.





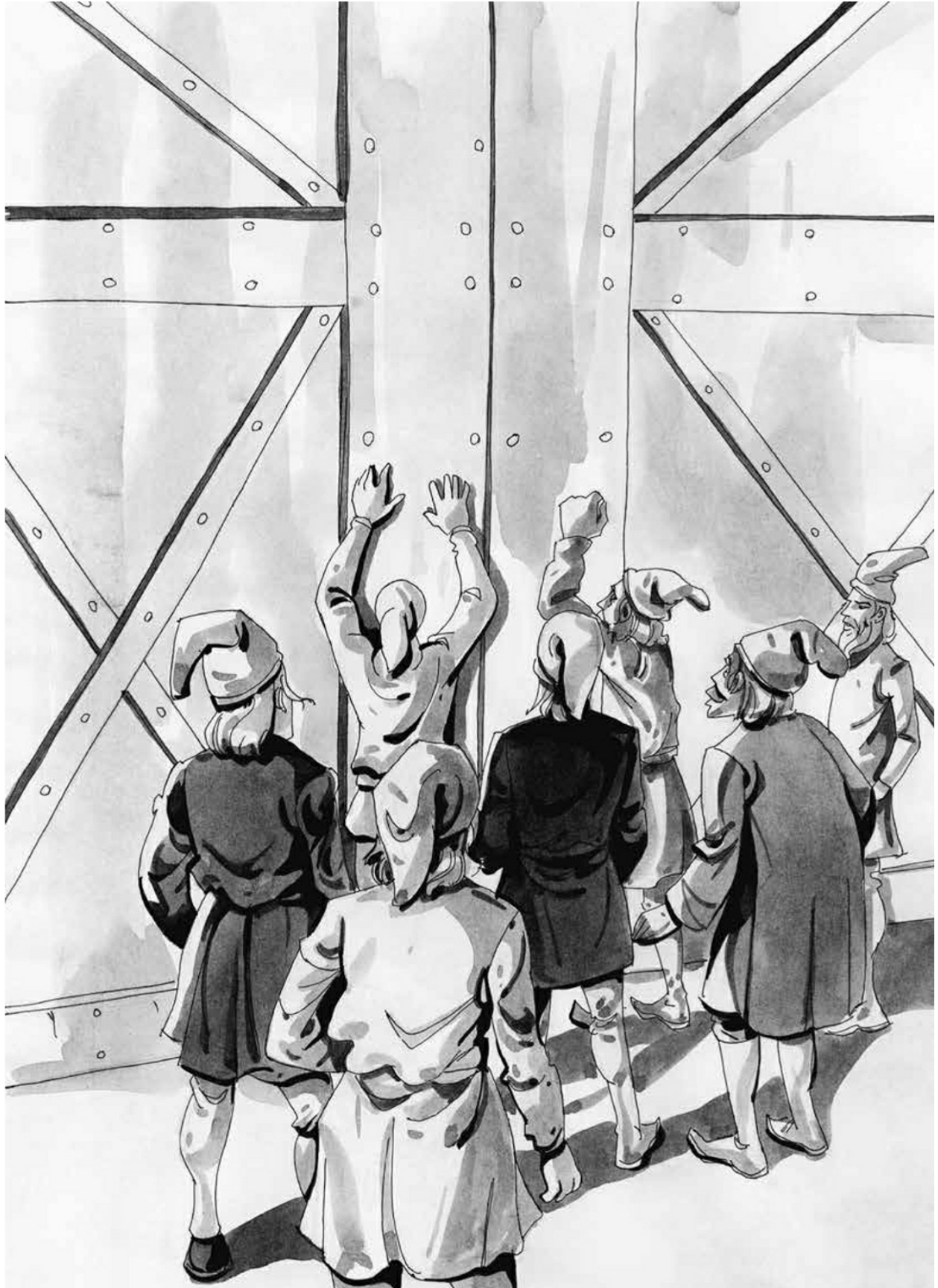




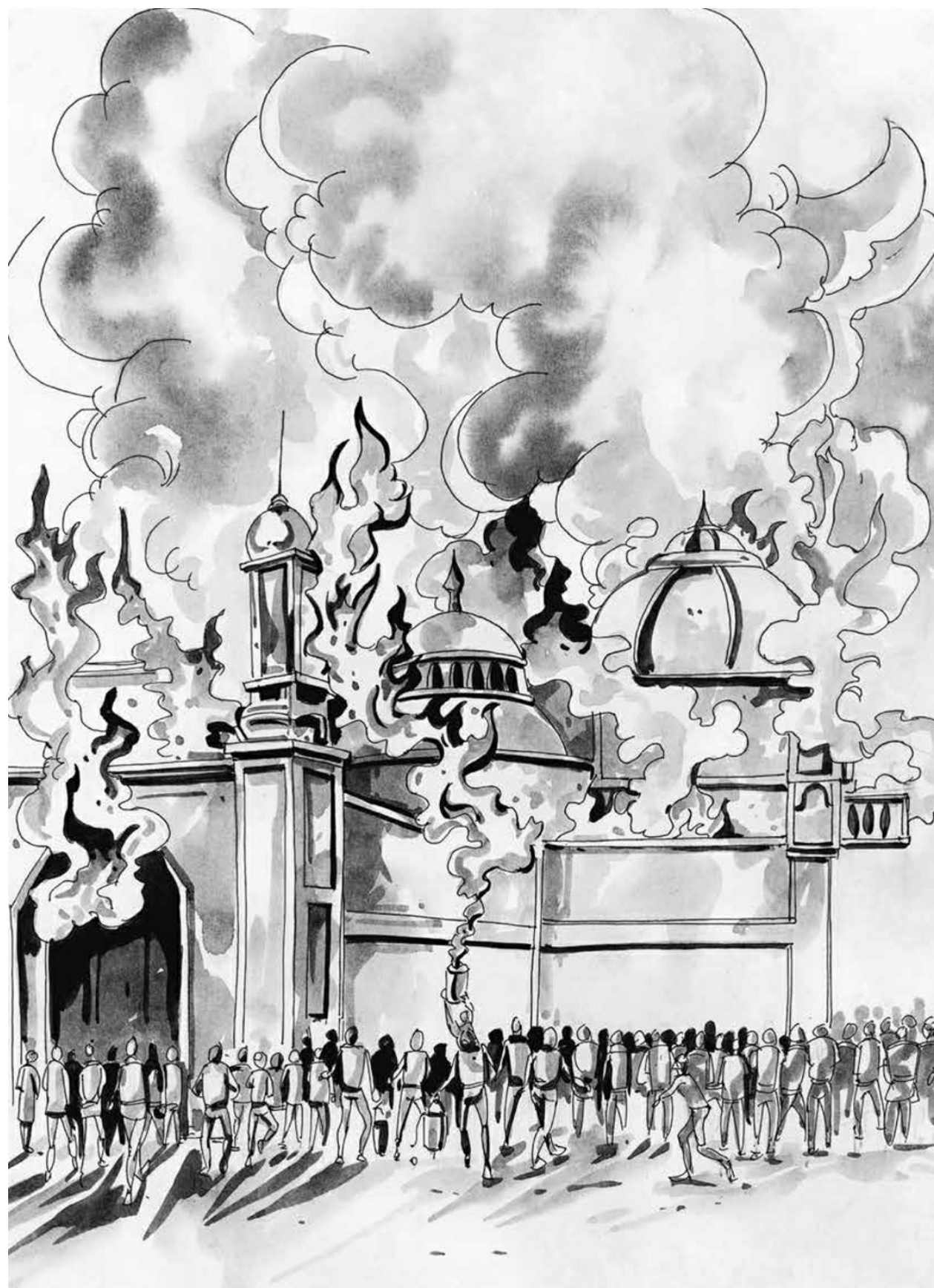
This was the time when the Emperor was convinced by his evil ministers that I should be destroyed. I was filled with disgust to see the Emperor's greed for power. He didn't spare a thought for others. I was also angry after realizing that the Emperor had forgotten everything I did for him and his kingdom so quickly. Then, after some weeks, some ministers and some people came from Blefuscu to speak to the Emperor and request for peace, but the Emperor agreed only after he and Lilliput were declared the winners.

I was still welcome at the Lilliput court and welcomed the minister and ambassadors who had come. Without my knowledge, someone had told the ambassadors from Blefuscu that I was the one who stood against the Emperor to avoid attacking Blefuscu. The ambassadors were impressed after meeting me and hearing about me, and one of them came up to me to invite me to visit their kingdom someday. I promised them that I would come before I leave for my country for I really wanted to meet their Emperor who was known to be a just and kind ruler. I went to the Emperor to ask for permission to go to Blefuscu. He said yes, but he looked resentful. After some time, I came to know that Skyresh and Flimnap told the Emperor that I had complained to the Blefuscu ministers about my treatment in Lilliput.

Some days after this incident, one night, I was sleeping in my home, when some Lilliputians started shouting outside my door, calling me out. I immediately got up, and went outside to see what was happening, and what the cause of this chaos was. People screamed, pointing towards the palace and asked me to rush to the palace. I ran towards it and reaching there, I found that the Empress' palace apartment was on fire. Many people surrounded the palace and were trying very hard to cease the fire by throwing water. They were to douse the raging flames, and I thought that only I could help Her Majesty. This was the perfect opportunity to prove my loyalty. I asked the people to move away from the palace to make way for me. They did as I told them, and I ran to the shore, and filled my mouth with water. With water in my mouth, I rushed back to the palace. I spat all the water in my mouth on the palace, and within seconds the fire extinguished, and the apartments were saved from any further destruction.







After spitting the water out, I had some doubts in my mind, if I had broken any Lilliputian rule by doing that, as spitting around the palace was an offense. But, I brushed these thoughts aside and happily went to the Emperor thinking he might be happy and proud of me for saving his palace, and extinguishing fire at the moment. The Emperor was not as happy as I was expecting him to be because he couldn't digest the spitting part. Later he forgave me for it, but the Empress was filled with disgust, and changed her living apartment as she couldn't live where someone had spat. My position changed now, from being a hero who had been awarded a title some weeks ago, to a villain now who had spat on the palace.









## Chapter Seven

### Treason?

The day to visit Blefuscu was coming nearer and I was preparing for it excitedly. One night as I was making preparations, I heard a knock on the door. I opened the door to find a minister from Blefuscu standing outside. I placed his coach on my table, and asked, “You don’t look fine. What has happened?” He replied with a sullen face, “I have started to dislike the Lilliputian Emperor, and I think he hates me too. I have come here to warn you beforehand about something very important that concerns you.” I noticed that he had come secretly to me to avoid any problems in future. I was curious, so I probed him, “Tell me what you want to warn me about?”



He looked quite tense as he answered, "There have been speculations all around Lilliput about your status here. Don't you know anything about it? Yesterday, a meeting was held and the Emperor has taken a decisions regarding you." "What about me?" I asked him. He continued, "They have written your destiny. All has been planned and manipulated by Skyresh and Flimnap who are clearly against you. After your victory, they had been looking for the right chance to lower you in the eyes of the Emperor. And, now I am afraid that they have succeeded this time."

"I did what was told to me," I explained. "Everybody has to do whatever the Emperor orders them to do. You did what you were asked to, but the real villains are Flimnap and Skyresh. They have convinced the Emperor that you are a threat to his rule and kingdom. You have been accused of treason. I am grateful for your favours to me, and somehow I have managed to get a copy of the charges so that you should be aware before anything happens," he said with a sigh. He stared at my face to see my reaction, and then opened the copy of the charges made against me and started reading them out:

"The first charge against the Man-Mountain is that he spat near the Empress' apartments deliberately, and spitting in Lilliput is considered as an act of treason.

"Secondly, he refused our Majesty, when asked to bring the rest of the Blefuscudian fleet to Lilliput, kill the Big-Endians, and enslave Blefuscudians. His error is that he did not follow the Emperor's orders.

"Thirdly, he maliciously greeted the enemy, the ambassadors and the lords from Blefuscu, coming out as a traitor in the eyes of Lilliput, and switching his sides to be with the Emperor's enemy.

"Lastly, Man-Mountain has been planning to visit the enemy's land, and we are suspicious of his loyalty. Though the Emperor has granted him his permission, we all collectively think that he should refrain from this visit to Blefuscu, our enemy."









After hearing all the strange accusations against me, I was speechless and didn't know what to do. The charges were absurd, and I wanted to laugh, but I couldn't because of the gravity of the situation. The minister from Blefuscu informed me that the Emperor also pointed out to the fact that Man-Mountain had done many great things for Lilliput, but evil Flimnap and Skyresh continued saying that I should be killed by setting my house on fire while I slept unaware, or attacking me with fifty thousand men hitting me with poisonous arrows. I was horrified to listen to all these things that were being planned for me. The minister was quite concerned and worried about me as the Lilliputians wanted me to be dead.

He further told me that the Emperor wanted me to be alive and asked Reldresal, whom he thought to be my friend. I was sure that he would have said something in my favour since I considered him my true friend. The Emperor called Reldresal and questioned him about me. Reldresal confirmed that I had committed crimes, but they should not take my life, instead my eyes should be taken out, so that I am not a threat to the kingdom anymore. The earth beneath me began to tremble when I heard Reldresal's suggestion. I considered him my friend and to know that he thought in this way for me was truly shocking.





The minister also told me that the high admiral was not satisfied with just gouging my eyes out as it was an easy punishment according to him. He thought that I could destroy the whole kingdom by flooding it with water in my mouth and the only way was to kill me. Flimnap, the treasurer, readily agreed on this. He said their treasury had depleted to a large extent because of me, and they couldn't afford to do so anymore. So, they planned death for me. But, the Emperor still thought otherwise. He asked Reldresal for any possible way to keep me in the kingdom. Reldresal thought for some time, and came up with a plan that they could cut down on my food, thus saving the treasury, and I would grow weak day by day, and die eventually.

I was confused as to what would be done with my body after I am dead. The minister told me that they were planning to chop my body into small pieces and carry it in a cart to Lilliput's deserted portion of land, and bury it there. But, they wanted to keep my skeleton as a memento and also for their future generations to admire afterwards. I was amused at this suggestion and the minister further added that all of them thought that this could be done, and the decision would be confidential. I wanted to know about when and how would I be informed about my own death plans. The minister said that after four days, someone from the court would come to my place and announce the charges and the punishment that were against me. Then, he would convince and assure me that my eyes would be removed by shooting arrows at them by the most expert surgeons in the land.

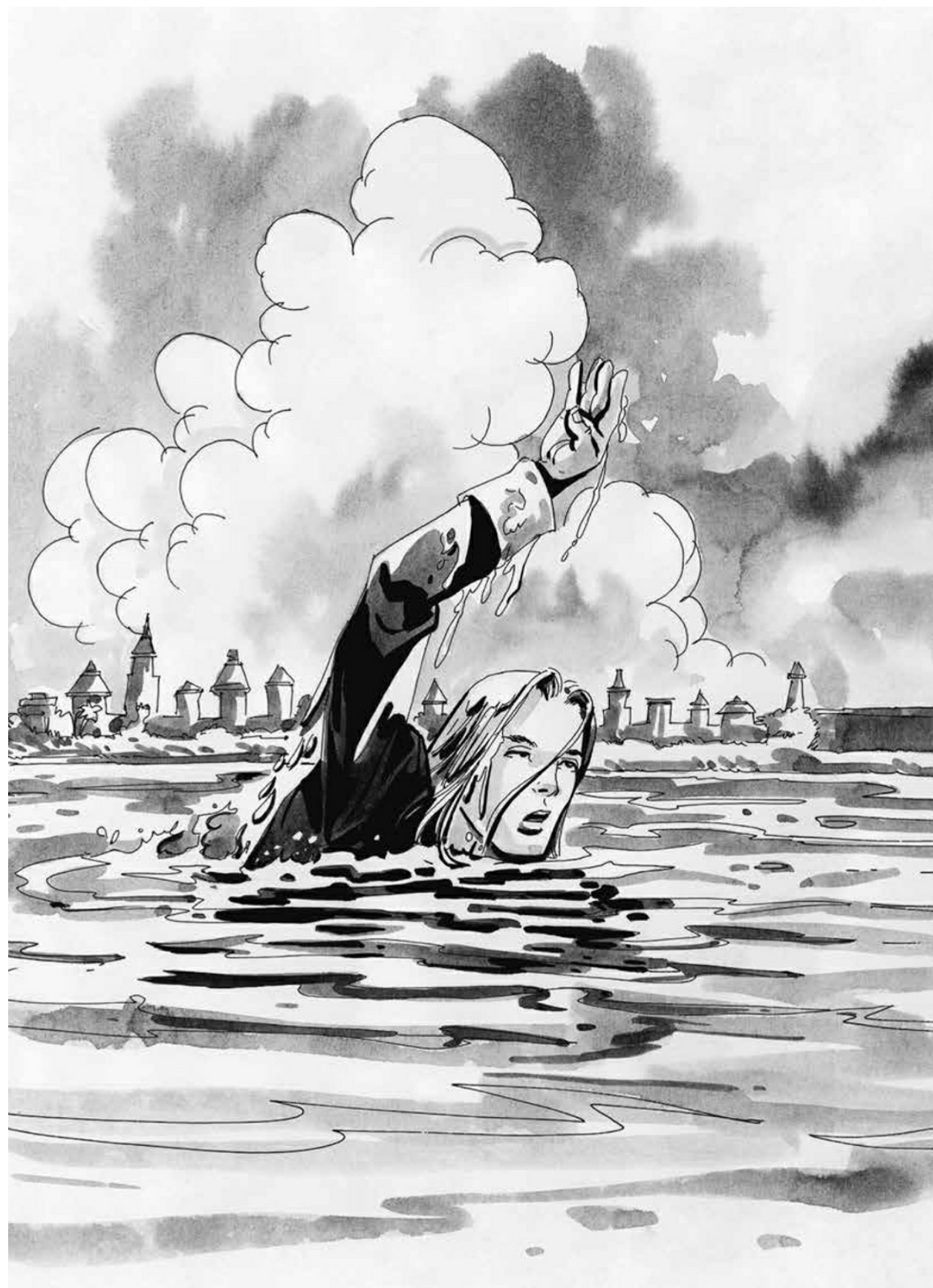






I was disturbed by how casually my death was discussed amongst the Lilliputians. The minister asked me to be aware and hoped to see me alive the next time he came to Lilliput. He wished me luck and I wished him luck in return, for he had taken a great risk in coming to my place, and then he left at last. After the minister was gone, I spoke to myself for a long time, thinking of what to do. Should I wait for the trial? Or, should I prepare for my defense? I thought that I was a free man and a thousand times stronger than the Lilliput army, but then I remember the conditions to which I consented when I first came here. I then took a long time thinking, but finally came to a decision.

I planned to leave for Blefuscu the next morning only, as this was the only way to save myself from getting killed. I sent a message to the Emperor informing him about my departure. I didn't wait for an answer, and straight away left, taking all my things with me to the coast. I took out the anchor of one of the warships at the coast, then kept my clothes in the ship, and at last started swimming in the water and was on my way that led to Blefuscu.









## Chapter Eight

### Blefuscu

It didn't take me so much time to reach Blefuscu, and as I reached there, I saw many people stood on the shore for welcoming me. After receiving a warm welcome, two tiny people came up to me and asked me to lift them in my hands. They were the guides, who took me to the gates of the city, and then declared my arrival in front of the Emperor. The Emperor came along with his family to see me. The Emperor and the Empress both came forward to greet me, and weren't scared of me. I showed my respect and honour by lying on the ground to kiss their hands. The first thing was to inform the Emperor that I had come to Blefuscu by obtaining the consent of the Emperor of Lilliput. I did so and also offered to perform any tasks for the Emperor and Empress of Blefuscu.



I didn't mention anything about my real condition back there in Lilliput, and how I was disgraced by the Emperor and his ministers, who wanted to kill me, after declaring me a traitor. They had betrayed me, but I was happy to have left them behind me and be amongst the Blefuscudians. Blefuscu didn't have any place, where I could sleep with a shelter over my head. So, I chose the ground to sleep on, and covered myself with my bedcover to save me from the cold outside. I was curious to know how Blefuscu was different from Lilliput, and thus travelled and explored it for three days. I was on the coast on the fourth day, when I saw an overturned boat at some distance. Quickly, I took off my clothes and dived into the water.

I reached the boat, and was overjoyed to see a boat of the English size, which seemed to have been tossed over by a storm from a sailing ship. At once, I returned to the shore and told the Emperor about the boat, requesting him to provide me with thirty of his ships, and five thousand sailors. The big-hearted Emperor consented to my plea. I arranged for some ropes to drag the boat on to the shore. The sailors sailed in their ships towards the overturned boat. The waves helped me that day by pushing the boat towards me, and I finally attached all the ropes to the ships, held one in my hand, and pulled the boat, bringing it to the shore. I was even gladder to see that the boat was in a better condition than I had expected.

My next step was to make paddles for the boat, and I worked hard for the next fifteen days and they were ready at last. I got the boat to the port and the crowd was surprised to see such an enormous boat. Even the Emperor was shocked, and gaped at the size of the boat. Then, I asked the Emperor, "Your Highness, I would like to leave and want your permission to go back to England, my home. Also, if you allow me to go, I will need some help for making provisions for my journey at sea." The Emperor replied, "You have my permission to leave, and will be aided in whatever you desire." I came to know that a message came from the Emperor of Lilliput five days ago. Therefore, I asked the Emperor of Blefuscu, "I know that you have received a message from Lilliput. What does it say, Your Majesty?" "In the message, they had written that you were a traitor and had committed many crimes. Therefore, they want us to return you alive. If we fail to do so, then war will be declared."

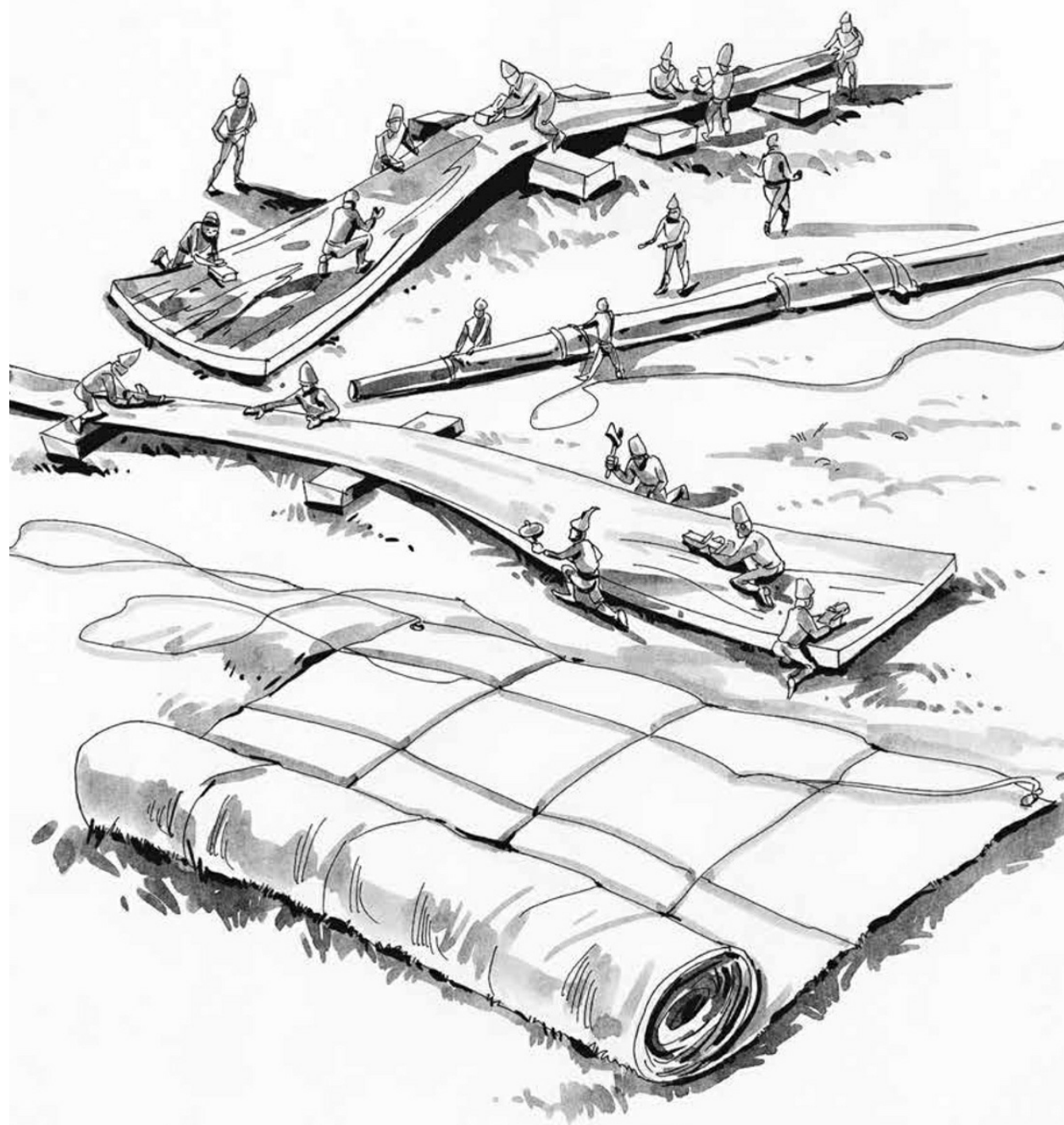






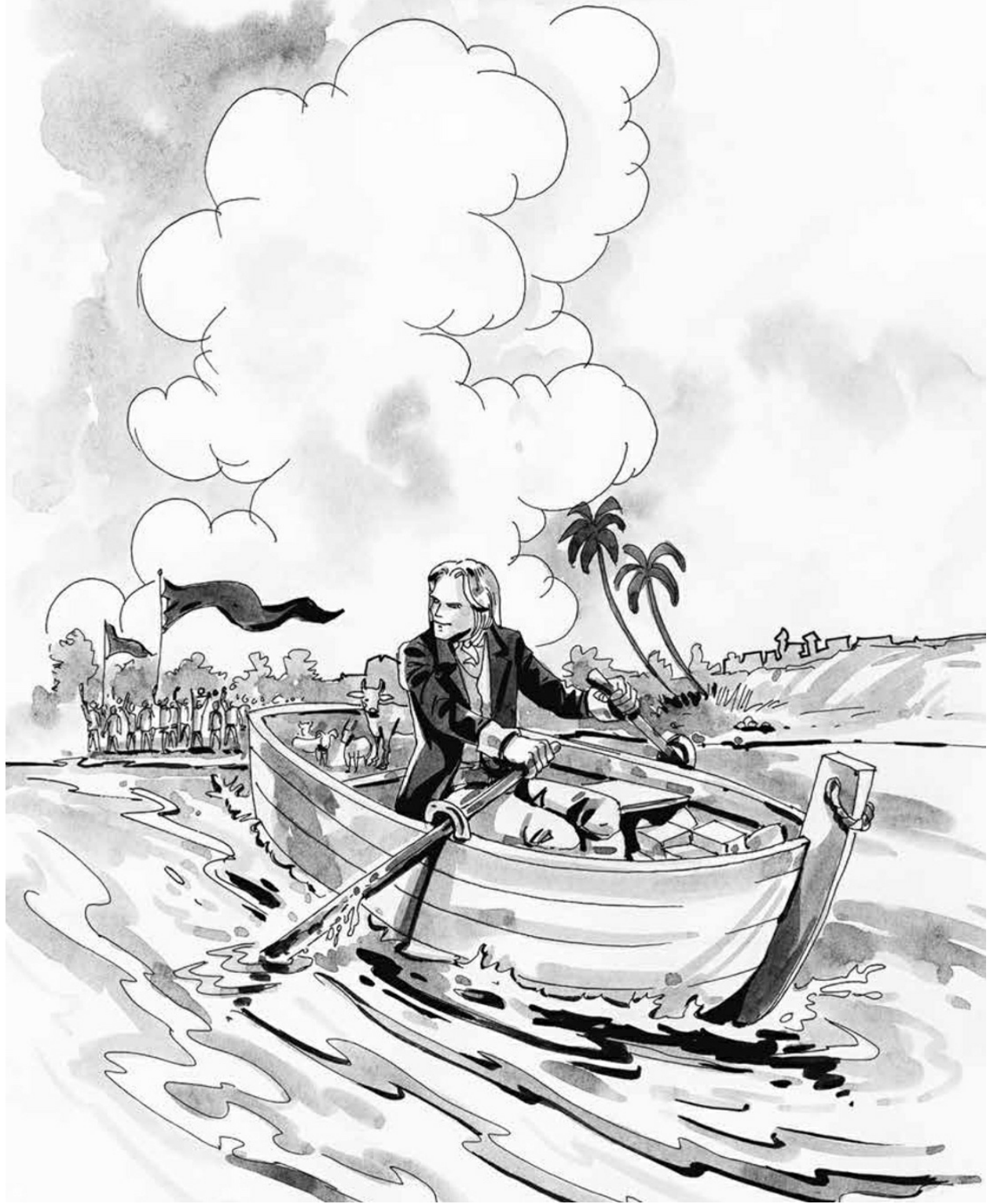
I was angry and disgusted to hear this. Seeing the expression on my face, the Emperor said, "I have sent an answer to the message through my messenger. You should not worry. I have made it clear to the Lilliputian Emperor that it would be difficult to tie you as you might resist. Also, I have thanked him for sending you here in an endeavor to establish harmony between the two lands." "Have you informed the Emperor about my leaving?" I asked. "Yes, I told him that you found a boat and wished to leave for your home. This would benefit both the kingdoms as we wouldn't have to prepare food for you any further," he answered. My heart filled with delight that finally I could return home. But, the Emperor had something else in mind. He looked at me and asked, "Man-Mountain, what if I offer you all the comforts? Would you stay here to serve me and my kingdom?" I had made up my mind to stay out of any political problems, and thus replied, "Majesty, I honour you, but I don't want to be the reason for another battle."

The Blefusculian Emperor was intelligent enough to understand that I just wanted to leave. Immediately, he ordered a thousand of his men to help me make sails, oars, masts, and cables for my boat. I found a large rock which I finally used as an anchor. It was finally the last days of the month and I was ready for my journey. The Emperor asked his men to load my boat with food and water. With me, I took along some cows, bulls and sheep to show to the people of England and prove that I had been to Lilliput, and also to breed them and produce more tiny cows, bulls and sheep in England also. When it was time to go, I went to the Emperor's palace to bid him farewell and also thank him for all he had done for me. After I thanked him, he gifted me some pouches, which contained sprugs (gold coins) and also gave me his life-size painting for me to remember him after I was gone. I asked the Emperor if I could take some of his tiny men with me, but he refused, and asked his men to thoroughly search my clothes.





At last, I set sail on October 5, 1701, using my compass to head north. I came across an island which looked deserted and rested there for the night. Next morning, I continued with my journey and went on sailing till I spotted a ship going in the southeast direction. I followed the ship and as I went nearer, I was overjoyed to see the flag of England fluttering in the wind. The ship also spotted me, and asked me to come aboard. I quickly collected my things and climbed on the ship. The crew on the ship started asking many questions about how I came here, where I was going, etc. I told them everything honestly, but they couldn't believe what I said. To prove myself, I showed them the tiny animals, the gold coins and Emperor's picture I had with me, and they were shocked to see something so incredible. The captain finally believed me and I gifted him with a sheep and a cow.







We anchored at England on May 17, 1702, and stepped on the British land almost after three years. My family was ecstatic to see me after such a long time, and I stayed with them for three months. I put the tiny animals on display for the people of England and earned a lot, as people from distant areas also came to see them. I sold the animals which again gave me a large amount of money, and with all this money, I gifted my family a large house, and handed over the remaining money to my wife to utilize in future, and live comfortably. Living on land for so long wasn't very comfortable for me and the sea called out to me. So, a merchant ship going to the coast of India was my refuge.





## Chapter Nine

### Marooned!

My ship, Adventure, set sail on July 3, 1702, and headed to Europe and then to Africa. We stopped on our way near the Cape of Good Hope, but discovered a leak in the ship. The crew tried hard to repair the ship, but it proved to be a difficult task and it took us almost a year to set sail again. We left the Cape and went north towards the Arabian Sea. We had not travelled for more than two days when we were struck by winds for the next fifteen days. After some days of peaceful weather, a violent storm hit us, and the forceful winds started pushing the ship towards the east. We removed the sails and hoped for the sinister storm to end. It ended, but all of us were lost at sea, after being blown in several directions by the stormy winds. The most widely travelled people in the crew couldn't think of where we were. The ship was still strong and the crew was also fine, but our food and water was getting finished.





On June 25, 1703, one of the crew members shouted that he had spotted some land nearby. Next day, we reached the shore to discover a huge island, and a small cove, outside which there were many sharp rocks. After dropping the anchor away from the shore, thirteen men sat in a boat and then headed to the shore. Reaching the shore, everyone went different ways to search for drinking water. I also explored the island for over an hour, walking upon the barren land, but came back empty-handed as I found no food, water or any people living there. But, there was no one on the shore for me. I could see them going, and ran after them, shouting, to wait for me. But, all the men had left me there. I could not believe that I was stranded on this island full of rocks. But, why did they run? I looked around and saw the cause of the terror on their faces. There was a gigantic man, fifty feet tall, who was running after the boat with an unbelievable speed, but was unable to reach it because of the sharp rocks.

My first impulse was to run away from the giant, and I went on and on running. I finally reached a steep hill, from where I could clearly see the land, which was full of fields of corn and hay. The view was incredible as the crops were as long as thirty feet. I decided to travel through the corn fields, and walked on till I saw the tallest trees of my life, and a fence that was a hundred feet high. There I saw a stone stile that led from one field to another, to reach the top meant four fields. But, the problem was that I couldn't climb the stile as every step was five feet high. I tried to find a hole or a creek in the fence so as to pass through.

Just then, I was confronted with another huge creature, who making absurd noises. I hid myself in the corn after being scared of the strange sounds coming from him. The thunderous sounds multiplied as a group of giants came near where I was to cut the stalks. I had to be hidden to save myself from getting trampled by someone, and as I didn't want them to find me, I hid myself in the stalks that he already been cut and were lying on their sides. I thought that my time had come and thus prayed that my family to be all right after I die, and cursed myself for going for this voyage against their wishes.











## Chapter Ten

### Escaping Dangers

As I was muttering oaths and blaming myself for not following my family's advice, I was jolted by a loud noise. It was the thump of a foot on the ground. I lost my wits and shouted and shrieked as loudly as I could. It was the giant creature that was walking by, and when I screamed he started investigating the ground intently. His eyes fell upon me and he stopped walking, staring at me as if I were some new animal species. He immediately bent over, grabbed me in his hand, and within moments I was right in front of his eyes. My instinct told me not to do anything that would frighten or irritate the giant man. So, I was silent even though I was hanging in the air, fifty feet above the ground. I closed my eyes and started chanting, so that the stranger would think of me as a calm being.

He started hurting me with his fingers, pinching my sides and when I cried in pain, he understood and stopped hurting me any further. Then, he put me in his jacket and ran to his master, the giant farmer. I stood on the farmer's hand and then he looked at my face, lifted the flap of my jacket and blew my hair. He was surprised to see me and said, "What a creation by Nature!" Then, he placed me on the ground, waiting to see if I walked like an animal on four legs. I showed him that I was a two-legged being by walking in front of him for some time. Everyone standing in a circle around me was amazed. I bowed to the farmer, and from my pocket took out the pouch that

had gold coins. I made a sign to him to put his hand on the ground, and as he did so, I emptied the pouch on his palm. He looked at the tiny golden coins closely, and then signaled me to put it back.









By now, the farmer was aware that I was not an insect or animal, and started speaking to me in a foreign tongue, too loud for my human ears. I answered him back screaming my lungs out in many languages, but it was of no use. Ordering his servants to resume their work, he took out his handkerchief, spreading it on the ground when we were alone, and indicated that I should stand on it. I tried to stand but as the cloth was just one foot thick, I lay on it, and the farmer took me with him to the farmhouse. Very gently, he removed the cloth in which I was wrapped up, and displayed me to his wife, as I stood on the table. She stared at me with shocked eyes, and let out a cry. I didn't understand why she was frightened after looking at someone as tiny as I was. Standing on a table, thirty feet above the ground, her shrill cry added to my terror and made me tremble even more.



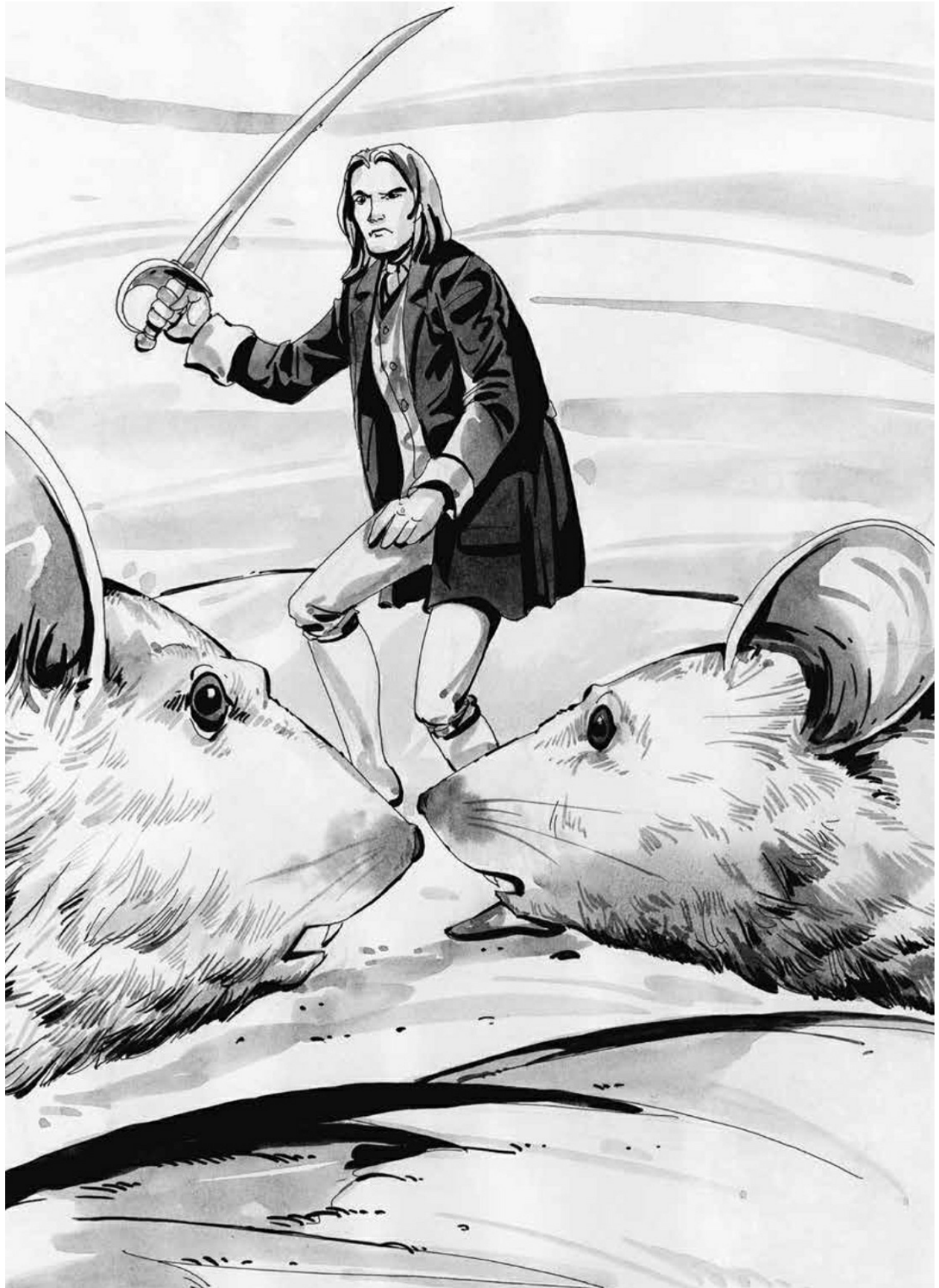
Later in the day, when the farmer had explained how they had found me, his wife was not scared of me anymore. She was very kind to me, and even served me mashed potatoes, meat and some bread. The couple had two children – a ten year-old boy, and a nine year-old girl, who joined us for the meal. I ate with my own fork and knife that I carried with me in my pocket, and the family was amused. Later, they gave me a drink in the smallest glass in their kitchen, but even then it was really difficult for me to lift it and drink. I somehow managed and liked the drink which tasted like cider. After we had finished our meal, the farmer indicated to me to come near him. I walked towards him, going past the utensils that stood like huge obstacles, but I accidentally bumped into a crust of bread and fell. There was no injury, and I got up, again walking towards the farmer. All of a sudden, the farmer's boy lifted me up in the air right above his head. I was in a dangerous situation, dangling in the air, with my legs in the boy's hand and my face looking at the ground.

The farmer was furious as he saw this, and instantly slapped his son, asking him to leave the table and wait for his punishment. I pleaded with the farmer not to punish his son because of me, as I didn't want to make his son my enemy. He could easily harm me when his father was not around. At night, dinner was served and after it was over, I met another member of their family who was an year-old infant. The child was happy to see me, as if I were his toy, and stretched his hand to catch me. I stepped back and unable to reach me, he started crying. His mother picked me up, and placed me in the baby's hand. The baby crushed me with his tight grip, and then took me towards his mouth. I screamed loudly and the baby, scared by the noise, loosened his grip and I fell on his mother's apron. She had spread out her apron luckily, or I would have surely died in a crushing fall. I started feeling sleepy later and the mother noticed that I was tired. She carefully placed me on her bed and wrapped me nicely with a clean handkerchief.









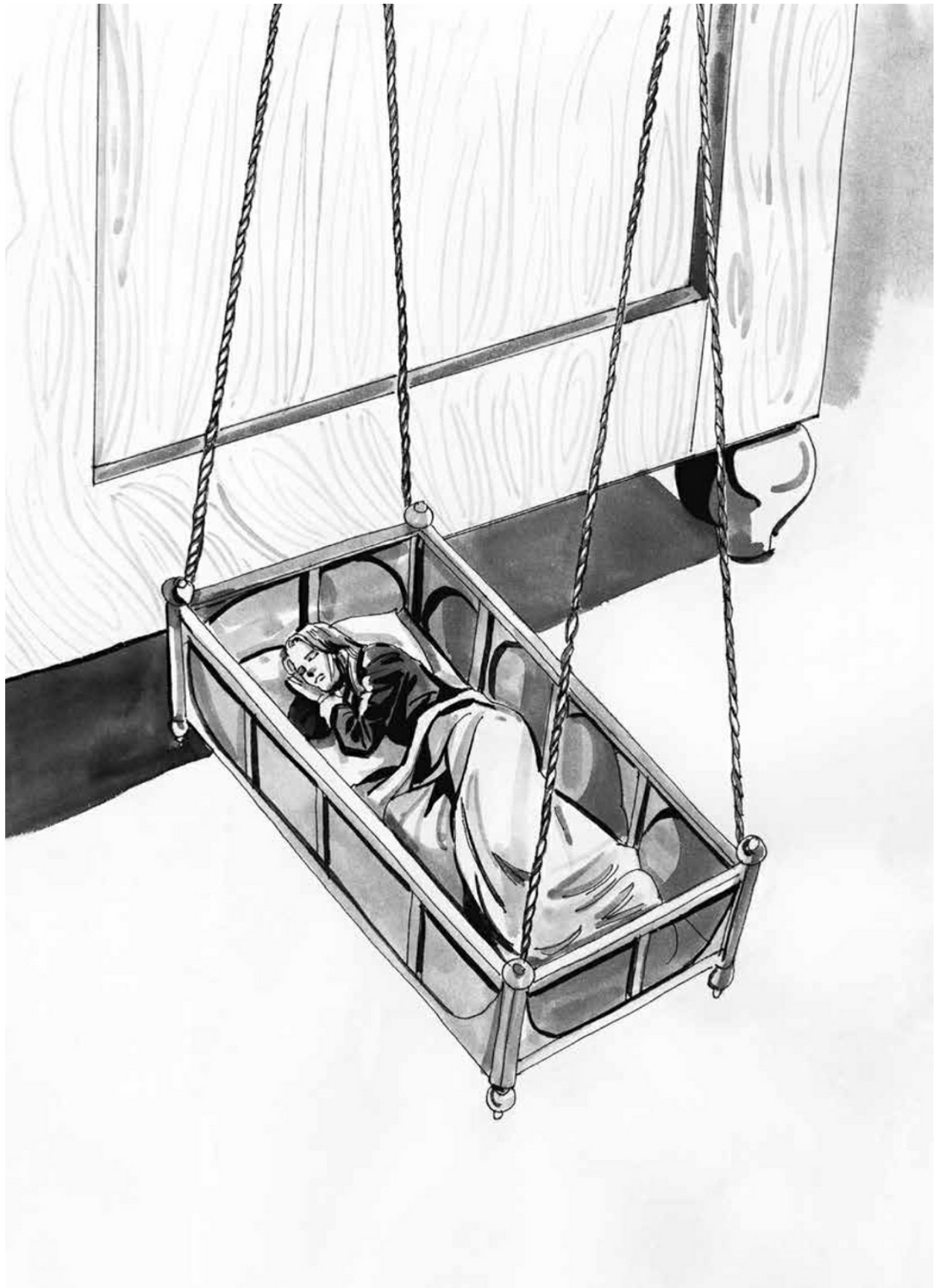
I woke up refreshed after three hours, and looked around in the room where I was sleeping. The bed on which I was sleeping was more than fifty feet long. As I was exploring the room with my eyes, two huge rats, with tails as long as five feet, attacked me. One came at my face, and drawing my sword, I slew it. The other one escaped but was injured by me, as I struck him with my sword. Once I had gathered myself and was calm again, the farmer's wife entered the room. She was terrified at seeing the bed and me all covered with blood. She picked me up, and inspected me for any bruises. But to reassure her, I pointed to the dead rat and gave her a smile. She was relieved to find me unharmed, and asked her servants to change the sheets and tidy up the room. Then, she took me out to the garden for a walk.



## Chapter Eleven

### Grildrig's Performance Time

As the time passed, I became close to the farmer's nine year-old daughter. His daughter was an intelligent and responsible being, and she was my first friend. She was considered as short-heighted compared to the other girls her age, though she was thirty feet tall. She looked after me, protected me from dangers and cared for me. She told me that Glumdalclitch was the word for little nurse, and thus, I called her by that name. She knew many things which were very helpful for me, and I think I was only able to survive as she was around me all the time, catering to my needs. The girl also named me Grildrig meaning dwarf.



She made all the arrangements for me to live comfortably. For my sleeping place, she emptied her doll's cradle and prepared a bed in it. To steer clear of any danger of rats, or any other creatures, she hung the cradle above in the air. She made clothes for me as she was good at sewing. She was my teacher as she taught me Brobdingnag, the language of this land of giants. She told me about what was happening outside, and even people had come to know of my existence. She informed me that people liked me, calling me a gentle creature who obeyed its master's orders.

I explained to my sweet nurse that I liked obeying her father's commands. I told of an incident a day before, when my master had put me on a table on display in front of an old man. The farmer asked me to do something to entertain them, and following his orders, I took out the sword from the sheath and put it back, bowing to my audience. The old man was surprised to see me talking and performing like this, and I laughed at his reaction. He then took the farmer to one corner and started discussing something in whispers, eyeing me. My nurse told me that this old man was mean and she thought that something bad would happen to me.

Her fears came true and the next day she came running to me with her eyes filled with tears. She poured her heart out to me saying, "My friend, Grildrig, I told you that old man was mean. He suggested to my father that today is the market day, and he could put you on display to earn a large amount of money. I am afraid for you, as the people might break your hands and legs, while playing with you. You might die. No, I don't want you to get hurt." I convinced my caring friend that nothing would happen to me and I would have to follow her father's commands.

Whatever the girl said, came true as her father put me in a box full of holes. To make my journey comfortable, my friend put my quilt on the base of the box, and sat on a pillow behind my box when we were sitting on the horse, ready for our journey. The journey was tough for me as I sat locked in the box, able to feel every step the horse took on the way in spite of the quilt. Finally, when we reached the market place, we stopped at an inn, and the farmer asked someone to declare that he was putting a tiny, strange creature on display, similar to a splacknuck, which could do many tricks and entertain them by answering back in their own language. Then, he arranged for the largest room of the inn, so that more people could be accommodated in one room. He placed me on the inn's table and my nurse sat by me to tell me

what I had to do. The farmer only gave permission for a maximum of fifty people to watch me perform. My sweet nurse asked me to walk on the table, answer her questions, to greet the visitors, to raise a toast, and draw my sword to show some of my English fencing skills.









All this continued for the entire day, as I had performed for over ten times in the day, and was completely worn-out. The crowd became uncontrollable during the day as people banged at the door of the inn to let them in, as they were quite eager to see me demonstrate my entertaining skills. But, I thanked my stars that the farmer didn't allow anyone to lift me or touch me as he didn't want his source of income, which was I, to be harmed in any way. Though no one could touch me, a boy hit me with a nut of a huge size, which could have led to my death, had I not dodged it at the right time.

This was not the end; the farmer took me to the market on the next day also to earn more money. As if this was not enough, he asked me to perform even at his home, and asked for double the money. This way he was earning more and more each day by making me dance to his tunes, without thinking about my health. What he cared about was just money, and his greed increased day-by-day. I could only rest on Wednesdays, which was the day to celebrate Sabbath in the land of giants.







The farmer then thought of earning more by displaying me throughout the kingdom, and travelling many miles taking me along with him. He wished to take me to the capital city, and one day he planned to do so. We started on our three thousand miles journey, with my nurse holding me carefully in the box she had specially made for me later, stuffing it with more cotton and cloth to make the journey easy for me. For two weeks, we travelled and travelled and only stopped when the farmer wanted to earn quick money by showing me off through the fifteen towns we had travelled. But, my Glumdalclitch understood my pains and acted as if she was tired, made her father stop during the journey, and took me out of the box for a change. She also taught me how to read their language during this long journey.

We arrived in Lorbrulgud, the capital city on November 1, and the farmer took a room on rent at an inn near the palace. He advertised my performance nicely by distributing pamphlets to everyone or pasting posters on walls. In the capital city, I entertained people for eight times in a day and they were enthralled by my performance. I was able to understand that they were praising me and my talents, as I knew their language well enough. All this while, I was getting thinner and weaker, and the farmer grew more and more wealthy. The farmer didn't notice my worsening health conditions, and made me work endlessly till I had hardly any flesh on my bones.







## Chapter Twelve

### Meeting Her Highness

As I feared that I would die in some days due to non-stop performances, a messenger asked the farmer that the Queen would like to see the strange creature. Then, we all went to the castle, where a servant showed us to the Queen's apartments. Her Highness was amazed to see me, as the farmer let me out of the box on her table. Immediately, I ran towards her and asked for the honour of kissing her foot, but she instead offered me her finger. I kissed her hand gently, and she asked me many questions about my place and travels. Then, her offer of staying at the court with her surprised me. But, I replied respectfully that I was bound to my master and if he would permit, I would stay.

As I said this, the Queen turned to the farmer and asked if he was willing to sell me. The greedy farmer agreed without any delay at the thought of earning more wealth. He quoted the price as a thousand pieces of gold to sell me, and was overjoyed at making such a deal. The Queen instantly paid him the price and looked at me. Kneeling in front of her, I accepted my position as her slave, and requested her to let Glumdalclitch stay with me as my nurse and friend. The Queen seemed reluctant at first, but then she melted looking at my nurse's innocent face, and gave her consent. The farmer couldn't stop smiling, thinking his daughter would serve at the court and bring in more money.

The Queen was quick to notice that I wasn't happy with my previous master and questioned me after the farmer had left. I sighed and answered her that I was thankful to the farmer for taking me home and saving my life, but I have done more for him than was needed. Then I told her about how I used to stand and perform before audiences, and how my health was affected because of so much exhaustion. I even informed the Queen that the farmer had sold me to her as he believed that I would die in some days, but now that I was under the Queen's wing, I was sure to recover and regain my health. The Queen looked at me with wonder, unable to believe that a creature like me could think so sharply and clearly. She decided to show me to the King that very moment, and rushed to where he was sitting.



The King was not very happy to see the Queen carrying a splacknuck, but the Queen ignored him and asked me to introduce myself. I told him everything and my nurse who stood behind me confirmed all that I said was true. The King didn't speak for some minutes, but he turned around, staring at me, and I was afraid that I would be thrown-out of the kingdom. At last, the King said that he thought I was a puppet or a doll, but as I started talking, he took me to be a dwarf. He said that he was confused as I was too short to be called a dwarf, and he trusted me so he knew that I came from a place where many of my kind lived. I bowed in front of him to show my courtesy, and the King announced that I and my nurse would be treated with special care.









A special house, made of quilted walls, windows, cupboards, chairs, bed, table, etc. was made for me at the Queen's command. All the furniture was fixed to the floor to avoid any accident while travelling. The house had a handle to lift it when required, or attach it on the horse rider's belt with the additional hooks on the house's side. It was my own house, where I could sleep and rest, and this house could be used for travelling as well. Her Highness then summoned the finest tailors of her kingdom to make bed sheets and clothes for me with the smoothest cloth available. I gradually became the Queen's favourite as she would not eat without me sitting near her on my small table and chair with my tiny silver utensils. She would be pleased to serve me and watch me eating.



The Sabbath that happened on Wednesday gave me an opportunity to dine with the King and Queen, and some princes and princesses. During the dinner we all would discuss about the English laws, government and many such things. Everyone liked me at the court, except the Queen's dwarf who became jealous of me. He used to pass comments, but when no one was around he started hitting me. Once, he pressed my legs together and inserted them in an empty bone. He was whipped for a long time for doing so, and was forgiven only when I requested the Queen. He was still not satisfied, and the next time he deliberately dropped me into a bowl full of cream. Luckily, I knew how to swim, and also my nurse spotted me, and took me out of the bowl. This time I didn't ask the Queen to forgive him and he was barred from the court.



## Chapter Thirteen

### Dangerous Attacks

Located somewhere between California and Japan, Brobdingnag had not yet been found by the British, and therefore, it didn't exist on any map. The kingdom was a huge one, full of many cities, towns and villages housing sixty thousand people. The capital city was divided by a river, and the palace had many buildings covering several miles of space. I knew all this as my nurse took me around the city in her coach and allowed me to go to people's homes and interact with them. The King and Queen also took me with them many times, where I was hooked to a servant's belt, and a cushion was placed below my travelling box, so as to prevent me from getting injured during the journey by tossing around.



The Queen was kind and intelligent, as when she noticed my keen interest in books, she allowed me to take any book I liked from the palace library. For this purpose, she ordered a ladder to be built specially for me, so that I could reach the books placed on the high shelves. I read a book in an amusing manner. I climbed the ladder to read the book I wanted and fixed the page with my ladder. Then I started to read from left to right, slowly coming down as I reached the bottom of the page. Turning the stiff page was also a task in itself. But then, I carried on my reading in the same manner.

During my conversations with the Queen, I had mentioned my sea voyages many a times. One day, she herself asked me if I would like to sail again if only for enjoyment. I readily agreed and the Queen promised me that she would have a boat made for me, as their own boats would be too big for me. I was then asked to design the boat myself so the servants would know how to go about making it. I did so, and in less than ten days, I had my personal boat with oars, sails, and a mast. The Queen and her friends were glad to see my skills at rowing in the trough.

This passion could have cost me my life, as once the servant whose duty was to refill the trough with fresh water didn't see a frog in it, and as I was rowing, it jumped on to my boat, making the boat overturn, and covering me all over with its slime. I saved myself by attacking the frog with my oars, and then my nurse finally saved me.

It wasn't the only attack, but the most dangerous one happened when one day, my nurse went off to her parents for a visit, and left me in my travelling box, which was locked. She had opened some windows of the palace, and had also opened the windows of my small house to let some fresh air in. I was enjoying the view outside, sitting at my table, when I saw a giant monkey entering the room through the window. He started throwing things around the room for some time, and then he was interested in the small box which was my house. The moment he came near the house, I quickly got up from my table to ran to the corner of the room. The peeping monkey spotted me standing in the corner. He squeezed his hand through the door and got a hold me. The monkey started stroking my face as if I was its child.





Just then, my nurse came in the room and shrieked at the sight of a monkey holding me. The scared monkey jumped and made its way out of the window and then to the roof, running on three legs and holding me in the fourth. My little nurse shouted for help and hundreds of Brobdingnagians came out and stood outside the palace, pointing towards the roof, while some arranged for ladders. The monkey quietly sat on the edge, but when it saw men coming for him, he ran away, leaving me on the roof. I was afraid of falling off the roof but a courageous footman came up and safely took me down.







I was shaken and bruised by the incident and rested in bed for three weeks to recover from it. The King and Queen frequently came to see me and assured me that they had ordered their men to keep a watch that no monkey was to be seen around the palace.



## Chapter Fourteen

### Escape

I was happy staying at the Queen's palace, but I always wanted to run back to my real home in England, where I could be with my family. My stay in Brobdingnag was a long one, almost two years, and as the days passed, it was getting more difficult to stay. I desperately wished to escape. The King had ordered his men to look out for a ship similar to the one in which I had come in. The ship would be brought to the shore and the people sitting in would be transported to the palace. The King didn't want me to leave the kingdom. He was even looking for a wife for me, so that we could have children and be in the kingdom forever. But, I despised the idea of my children being treated as a toy like me, and therefore, desired to flee from the land, remembering my own wife and child.





During the third year of my stay, I found the right opportunity to escape when my nurse and I accompanied the King and Queen to their summer palace, which was located near the sea in Flasflasnic. Both of us were ill as the journey was too strenuous for us. My nurse was so sick that she had to stay in bed to rest. I wandered on the shore, which increased my desire to flee, and I planned to observe the coastline before doing anything. I pretended in front of the Queen that I needed some fresh air and wanted to go to the shore. She allowed me to go but sent a page along with me. My nurse was upset to know that I had to go with someone else, and she was also afraid that something might happen to me. So, she ordered the page to take care of me while we were on the shore.

Her fears came true. When the page took me to the shore, I asked him to place my box on one of the rocks. I opened the window and looked at the vast sea. I told the page that I was sleeping and he closed the windows, so as to protect me from the cold outside. The page then, satisfied that I was sleeping, might have walked around the shore, leaving me alone. Soon, I awakened to a thunderous noise, and I could feel that I was above the ground in the air! I opened the window and saw that my box was dangling in the air, held by someone through the ring on the top of the box. I shouted and asked who it was, but no reply came. After some time, I realised that I could hear wings flapping above me, and then everything became clear. An eagle was flying away with me!

The eagle intended to drop me on the rocks, like it would a turtle, which they throw from a height to break their shells and eat them. Tossing me up and down for several minutes, the eagle finally dropped me and the box came down so fast that it felt like I was having a heart-attack. I fell into the sea, and my box was filled with water. In a few seconds, the box came up and I was able to see and breathe again. I opened the roof for some air and then rested on my hammock trying to regain my senses. My nurse came to my mind. I knew she would be heart-broken to find out that I had been lost. I wondered what it would be like if the box broke or was overturned by the waves. Then, my death would be inevitable.









## Chapter Fifteen

### A New Life

I had lost all hope of being saved, and I was thinking about what would happen to my family if I were dead. All of a sudden, I heard a distinct sound coming from the hooks on the sides of my box. It felt like someone was trying to reach out to me, and after some time, I imagined that I my box was moving on water. I couldn't quite see as that side of the box didn't have any windows. Hope glimmered in my heart for a few seconds and then I again resigned to my fate. I had to remove the screws of the chair and then place it on the table to reach out to the roof. I stood up on the chair and started screaming at the top of my lungs, so that if anyone were around, he would save me on hearing my cries. To further signal for help, I tied a cloth to my sword, again stood on the chair and gestured with it.



This time when no answer came, I have completely gave up any attempts for the next half an hour. Just then, my box hit against something, and I thought that it must be a rock, and I thought my end was near. Just then I felt I was being lifted again, held by the hook on the top! Soon, I could hear some familiar voices, and then it struck me that they were speaking in English. People were moving on the roof of my house, and one of them looked inside and asked if someone was there. I spoke up immediately, full of joy, to see my saviours. I asked them to rescue me from the box. They assured me that I would be fine as they had attached my box to the ship, and the carpenter would be sent down to cut the roof and take me out.

I instantly said that they could save me by just lifting the ring on the top with a finger, but they laughed loudly at this suggestion and said it was impossible for a man of six feet to lift a twelve feet box with his finger. I had completely forgotten that they were English men and not Brobdingnagians. In few minutes, they sent the carpenter who took another hour to make a hole on the top, and then I was provided a ladder to make my way out. I was finally on a ship, free, full of joy but very weak from my sufferings.

When I came out, the crew asked me many questions about how I came to live in such a box. I was about to fall down because of so much weakness, when the captain called out to his men and asked them to give me food to eat and water to drink. I felt much better after my meal, and after I had rested for some time, I requested the captain to ask his men to get the valuable furniture in the box for me, so that I could show them where I had been. I slept after saying so, and the captain commanded his men to do as I said. But, I was not pleased to see what had happened. The box was broken apart into pieces, and the furniture had been destroyed and ripped apart rather than unscrewed, and whatever was remaining was thrown into the sea.





I had been sleeping for many hours and woke up from nightmares about the Brobdingnagians. It was dinner time on the ship and the captain invited me for a meal with him. As we sat on the dinner table, the captain told me how they had spotted me in the sea. He explained to me that he had seen the gigantic object through his telescope and as he was curious to see it, he sent a team of his men to find out about it. The men came back and reported that they had discovered a floating house. The captain told me that he couldn't believe them so he went himself taking a chain with him to drag the box back to the ship if needed. Then, they attached the chain to the box and brought it back, but as the house was too heavy, they could only get it four feet above the water level. So, they sent people on the top of the roof to see what was inside, and there they found me.







I questioned the captain if he could see any land from where I was rescued. He said that they were a three hundred miles away from land. It shocked me and I told him that I was only floating in the water for three hours, and Brobdingnag had to be nearby. He raised his eyebrows hearing the absurd name, and asked me if I felt fine. I told him that I was completely fine and sane. He further asked me if I was a criminal trapped in a prison and thrown into the sea, and if not then why was I then in that box. I then offered to tell him my entire story, and he listened to everything I said with interest.

I finished my story and unlocked my cabinet to show him that I was saying the truth. I displayed my comb, which was made of the Queen's nail and the King's beard hair. Then, I showed a ring that the Queen had given to me, which was as large as my head. In a similar fashion, I showed my trousers made of mouse skin, and a giant's four feet long tooth. I presented him with the gold ring but he was more interested in the tooth, so I gladly gifted the tooth to him. At last, the captain was convinced about the authenticity of my story, and promised to reunite me with my family by taking me to England.

We reached the English soil after ten months of sea journey, and the captain was satisfied to see me healthy and happy. As we shook our hands to part ways, he asked me to write a book about my travels and adventures, so that the people would know about the fantastic things that exist in this world. But, I explained to him that no one would believe me without sufficient evidence. I went back to my home and family and narrated all the incidents, and even they weren't able to trust whatever I told them. Later on, they came to believe me and asked me to avoid going on voyages again. But, I couldn't stop myself. Travelling at sea was full of many adventures and I wouldn't give it up. But then, those voyages would make another story altogether.









About the Author

## ■ Jonathan Swift

Jonathan Swift was born on November 30, 1667 in Dublin, Ireland. His parents, Jonathan and Abigail, were Protestant Anglo-Irish. He was known as a satirist, essayist, political pamphleteer, poet and cleric who became Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.

Some of his greatest works include Gulliver's Travels, A Modest Proposal, A Journal to Stella, Drapier's Letters, The Battle of the Books, An Argument Against Abolishing Christianity, and A Tale of a Tub.

The author had long suffered from Meniere's Disease, and by 1735 it had become very acute. By 1738 he slipped into senility. Swift died on October 19, 1745. He had composed his own epitaph in Latin, which was later translated by Yeats as follows:

*Swift sailed into his rest;  
Savage indignation there  
Cannot lacerate his breast.  
Imitate him if you dare,  
World-besotted traveller; he  
Served human liberty.*

## ■ Characters

**Lemuel Gulliver:** The narrator and protagonist of the story. He is intelligent and well educated, but his perceptions are naïve and gullible. Though a doctor by profession, he has an insatiable thirst for adventure on the sea.

**The Emperor of Lilliput:** The ruler of the 6-inch tall Lilliputians. His power and majesty impress Gulliver. He enjoys his power and is an autocratic ruler, but is a man who is easily swayed.

**Flimnap:** The Treasurer of Lilliput. He is extremely jealous of Gulliver and clearly hates him. Flimnap has weaknesses of character that become especially dangerous since he wields great power.

**Reldresal:** The Principal Secretary of Private Affairs in Lilliput. He is a source of much-needed information for Gulliver, and acts as his friend for some time.

**Skyresh Bolgolam:** The High Admiral of Lilliput. He is the only one in Lilliput to strongly oppose Gulliver's liberation.

**The Farmer at Brobdingnag:** Gulliver's first master in Brobdingnag. He treats Gulliver with gentleness and shows faith in him. However, the farmer exploits Gulliver, displaying him around Brobdingnag, which clearly shows his greed and profiteering nature.

**Glumdalclitch:** The farmer's nine-year-old daughter, who is thirty feet tall. Glumdalclitch becomes Gulliver's friend and nursemaid, and the only one he can rely on.

**The Queen of Brobdingnag:** The Queen of Brobdingnag, seems genuinely considerate, asking Gulliver whether he would consent to live at court instead of simply taking him in as a strange pet. She also generously allows Glumdalclitch to stay on as his nurse.

**The King of Brobdingnag:** The King of Brobdingnag is completely unlike the Lilliputian Emperor. He is a true intellectual who is well versed in political science. He holds serious discussions with Gulliver about Gulliver's native land.

## ■ Questions

### Chapter 1

- *What do you know about the narrator of the story?*
- *How does Gulliver quench his thirst for adventure?*

### Chapter 2

- *What was happening around Gulliver when he finally regained consciousness on the island?*
- *Describe the land and people of Lilliput.*

### Chapter 3

- *How was Gulliver made comfortable in Lilliput?*
- *Why couldn't Gulliver understand the Emperor?*

### Chapter 4

- *How were ministers selected in Lilliput?*
- *Who didn't want Gulliver to be free?*

### Chapter 5

- *How did Flimnap plot against Gulliver?*
- *What was the reason of the war between Lilliput and Blefuscu?*

### Chapter 6

- *How does Gulliver prevent the battle between the two?*
- *How did Gulliver become a villain?*

### Chapter 7

- *What warning did the Blefuscu minister convey to Gulliver?*
- *Who did the Emperor ask to confirm the charges on Gulliver?*

### Chapter 8

- *Describe Gulliver's stay in Blefuscu.*
- *What did the Blefuscu Emperor offer Gulliver?*

### Chapter 9

- *What happened aboard the Adventure?*
- *Who did Gulliver see while exploring the barren land?*

**Chapter 10**

- *How did the farmer in Brobdingnag treat Gulliver when he came to him?*
- *Describe Gulliver's encounter with the giant rats.*

**Chapter 11**

- *Who was Glumdalclitch?*
- *How did the farmer exploit Gulliver?*

**Chapter 12**

- *How did the Queen of Brobdingnag treat Gulliver?*
- *Describe Gulliver's house.*

**Chapter 13**

- *What dangerous situations did Gulliver encounter in Brobdingnag?*
- *What did the Queen promise Gulliver?*

**Chapter 14**

- *How did Gulliver escape from Brobdingnag?*
- *What did he do to save himself from drowning?*

**Chapter 15**

- *How was Gulliver rescued?*
- *Did the ship captain believe Gulliver?*



# GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

Jonathan Swift

## Giant or Dwarf?

Lemuel Gulliver can never be satisfied with the plain life of a country doctor. He craves excitement, adventure, new lands and new people. So he sets out on a voyage of discovery only to be washed away by a terrible storm that shores him to the most amazing land. This is Lilliput, the land of the six-inch tall people!

Gulliver's Travels is an adventure story involving voyages of Lemuel Gulliver, who because of a series of mishaps ends up on several unknown islands living with people and animals of unusual sizes, behaviors, and philosophies.



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